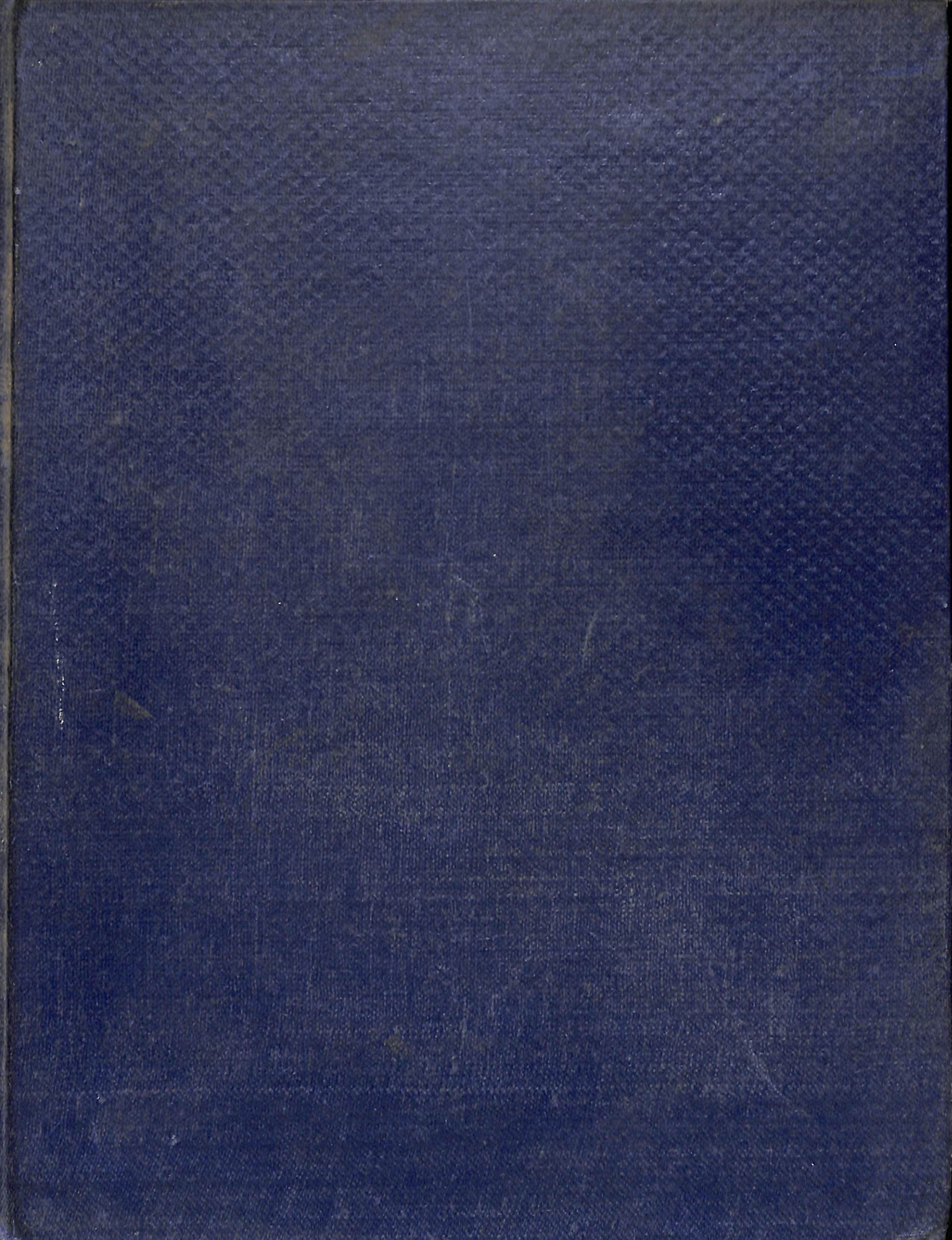




ORISSA REVIEW

SEPTEMBER 2002





Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik with the winners of the President's Police Medals. Principal Secretary, Home, Shri Tarun Kanti Mishra and D.G, Police, Shri Nimai Charan Padhi are also present :
Soochana Bhavan, Bhubaneswar, August 15, 2002.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik with the students who topped the list of successful candidates at the H.S.C. Examination, 2002 and won Gold Medals. Hon'ble Minister, School and Mass Education, Shri Surendranath Naik is also present : August 15, 2002.

ORISSA REVIEW

VOL. LIX NO. 2

SEPTEMBER - 2002

JAGADISH PRASAD DASH
Commissioner-cum-Secretary

SARBESWAR MOHANTY
Director

ARUN KUMAR MOHANTY
Editor

Durga Charan Nayak
Sadhana Mishra
Editorial Assistance

Manas R. Nayak
Cover Design & Illustration

Back page Photographs
Courtesy : Piyush Mohanty

Hemanta Kumar Sahoo
Manoj Kumar Patro
D.T.P. & Design

The *Orissa Review* aims at disseminating knowledge and information concerning Orissa's socio-economic development, art and culture. Views, records, statistics and information published in the *Orissa Review* are not necessarily those of the Government of Orissa.

Published by Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar - 751001 and Printed at Orissa Government Press, Cuttack - 753010.

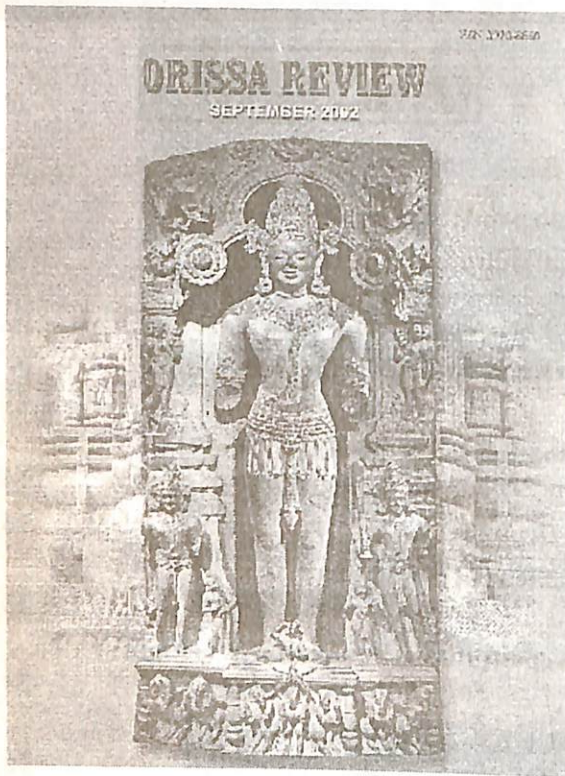
For subscription and trade inquiry, please contact : Manager, Publications, Information & Public Relations Department, Loksampark Bhawan, Bhubaneswar - 751001.

Five Rupees / Copy
Fifty Rupees / Yearly

CONTENTS

Editorial

56th Independence Day Celebrated	...	1
National Unity and Secularism	...	4
The Text of the Speech of His Excellency Shri M.M. Rajendran, Governor of Orissa		
Touch Orissa to Feel India from within	...	11
<i>A.U. Singh Deo</i>		
A Destination in the Making : Rural Tourism Project at Raghurajpur	...	14
Orissa Drought 2002	...	16
Management of Droughts	...	20
<i>Hemanta Kumar Nayak</i>		
Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan : A Tribute	...	24
<i>Satyanarayan Mohapatra</i>		
Nuakhai	...	26
<i>C. Pasayat</i>		
Saktipitha Ma Majhighariani	...	28
<i>N.N. Nayak</i>		
Footprints of Buddhism at Khiching	...	30
<i>Balabhadra Ghadai</i>		
Sustainability of Fisheries in Orissa	...	32
<i>Rabindra Kumar Behuria</i>		
Silk Culture and Sustainable Development in Orissa	...	36
<i>Prafulla Kumar Mohanty</i>		
New Railway Zones to Enhance Efficiency	...	42
<i>I.I.M.S. Rana</i>		
Advertisement Policy of the Govt. of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with DAVP	...	46
Procedure of Empanelment of Audio-Video Executive Producers	...	51
DAVP	...	52
Advertisement Policy of Government of Orissa, 1998	...	54
Orissa News	...	60



Front Cover

Image of Surya Narayan, the Sun God

Address for correspondence

Information & Public Relations Department,
Loksampark Bhawan, Bhubaneswar - 751001.
E-mail : iprsec@ori.nic.in

EDITORIAL



Yet another natural disaster has visited Orissa this year. Scanty and erratic rainfall in the crucial months of June and July brought agricultural operations to a halt in the State. As a result, 283 of the State's 314 blocks are now reeling under the devastating impact of an unprecedented drought. The August rainfall could do little to salvage the situation. However, the Government promptly rose to the occasion and initiated mitigation measures. Funds have been placed with the Collectors to provide irrigation by constructing cross bundhs; measures have been taken to ensure food security for the needy and vulnerable people in the scarcity pockets of the State. Steps have been taken to revive operable lift irrigation points.

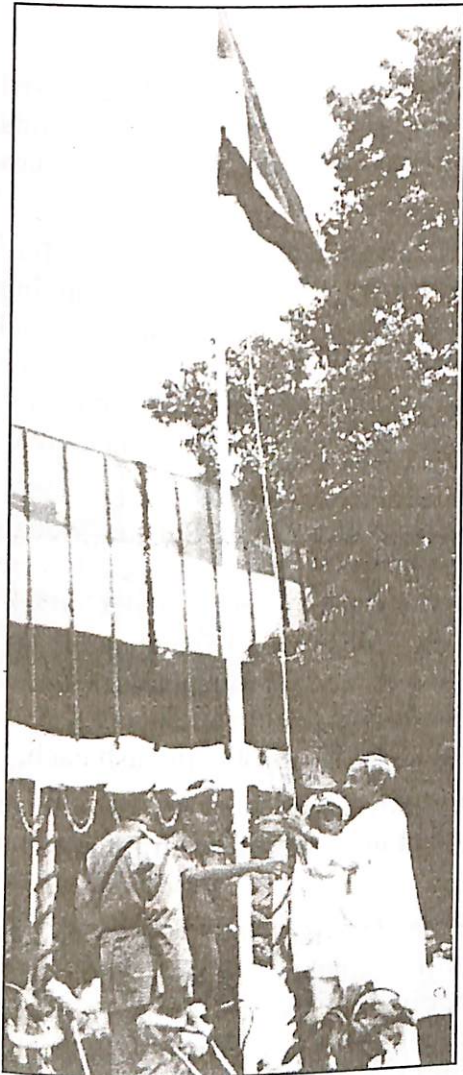
Since Orissa is passing through an acute financial crisis, it is not possible on the part of the State Government to tackle the drought situation on its own. Government of Orissa prepared a Memorandum on Orissa Drought 2002, giving details of the loss and indicating the volume of the assistance required. Hon'ble Minister, Revenue and Law, Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan submitted the Memorandum to Hon'ble Union Minister, Agriculture, Shri Ajit Singh on August 21, 2002. The State has sought financial assistance to the tune of Rs.871.40 cr. and 12.19 LMT of foodgrains to combat the drought. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik visited New Delhi on August 28, 2002, met Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri A.B. Vajpayee and Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani and appraised them of the situation in Orissa. He requested them for an interim assistance of Rs.100 cr. and 2 LMT of rice so that mitigation measures could be taken up immediately.

It is heartening to note that a nine-member central team headed by the Union Joint Secretary, Animal Resources Development, Ms Nirja Rajkumar arrived at Bhubaneswar on

September 16, 2002 to make an assesment of the situation. The team would submit its report to the centre after visiting the worst-hit districts of Bolangir, Nuapada, Kalahandi, Angul and Dhenkanal and holding discussions with the officers of the State Government. Hope, the centre would render necessary support to the State to meet this challenge. The current issue of *Orissa Review* carries an excerpt of the Memorandum on Orissa Drought 2002, in addition to an article on Drought Management. Steps taken by the Government to mitigate the suffering of the people have also been highlighted.

The 27th of this month is observed as the World Tourism Day. The text of the speech delivered by Hon'ble Minister, Tourism, Shri A.U. Singh Deo at the XVIII IATO Annual Convention held at Kolkata on August 29, 2002 has been published in this issue. Moreover, the Rural Tourism Project at Raghurajpur has been highlighted. This issue also carries an article on Nuakhai, an important festival in the western part of the State, and articles and features on other subjects. Hope, readers will appreciate the effort.





56th Independence Day Celebrated

STATE LEVEL CELEBRATIONS AT BHUBANESWAR

The 56th State level Independence Day was celebrated with joy and enthusiasm on August 15, 2002. Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik unfurled the national tricolour and received the salute at a combined parade organised at Mahatma Gandhi Marg, Bhubaneswar. In his address, the Chief Minister said that we have to lead Orissa on the path of progress in this new century. He paid glowing tributes to the freedom fighters, who fought the mighty British rulers. After attaining independence, the country and the State have achieved progress in various fields. Still Orissa is lagging behind other States. One natural disaster or another visits this State almost every year. Orissa is facing a severe drought this year and the Government is prepared to combat the calamity and mitigate the suffering of the people.

Government is determined to work for the all-round development of the State, the Chief Minister said. In order to give power to the people, Panchayati Raj institutions have been strengthened. Steps have been taken to give more power to the Gram Panchayats. Government has laid emphasis on the welfare of farmers, labourers, harijans and women. For the benefit of the farmers, Watershed Mission, Pani Panchayats and Biju Krushak Bikash Yojana have been introduced. For the empowerment of the women, Mission Shakti, a Self Help Mission, has been launched. The Chief Minister sought the cooperation of the people for the successful implementation of various programmes. He urged them to renew their pledge to build Orissa and make it a prosperous State in the 21st century.

On this occasion, Hon'ble Chief Minister gave away running shields and cups to the best NCC cadets, who participated in the State-level Republic Day Parade.

Earlier, the Chief Minister was received and conducted to the saluting base by Shri D.P. Bagchi, Chief Secretary, Shri Tarun Kanti Mishra, Principal Secretary, Home and Shri N.C. Padhi, D.G., Police. Troops of Police, NCC, Red Cross Volunteers, St. John Ambulance, Fire Services and R. & V. Squadron, Orissa participated in the ceremonial parade.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

On the occasion of 56th Independence Day, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik conferred service medals on the officers and personnel belonging to the Police, Fire Services, Home Guards and volunteers of Civil Defence Organisation for their outstanding and remarkable performances in their respective fields.

Shri John Nayak, Commandant General, Home Guards and Director General of Fire Services, received President's Police Medal and a cash award of Rs.10,000/- for his outstanding services. A Police Medal and a cash award of Rs.5,000/- each were given to Dr Rajendra Prasad Sharma, DIG (Police), Central Zone, Cuttack, Shri Ashok Kumar Biswal, Inspector, Vigilance Department, Cuttack, Shri Niranjan Mishra, ASI (Police), Cuttack, Shri Ram Chandra Satapathy, Havildar, Rayagada, Sk. Abdul Jaffer Rae, Constable, Mayurbhanj and Shri Batakrushna Samal, Constable, DIB, Balasore for their remarkable services.

Shri K. Prakash Rao, Assistant Fire Officer, Puri received President's Fire Service Medal, a citation and Rs.10,000/- in cash. Fire Service Medal and a cash award of Rs.5,000/- each were given to Shri K.C. Das, Assistant Fire Officer, Cuttack, Shri S.S. Swain, Station Officer, Cuttack, Shri P.K. Behera, Driver Havildar, Shri R.C. Sahu, Fireman and Shri K.C. Biswal, Fireman. Besides, Shri Bhagban Behera, Platoon Commander, Home Guards received Home Guard Medal, citation and a cash award of Rs.1,000/-. Volunteers of Civil Defence Organisation, Shri D.K. Giri and Shri A.K. Samartha received Civil Defence Medals, citations and Rs.1000/- in cash each.

Late Reshma Mohapatra of Musatikiri village in Jajpur district was awarded President's Medal posthumously for saving the life of her brother at the cost of her own life. Her father, Shri R.N. Mohapatra received the award.

Shri Tarun Kanti Mishra, Principal Secretary, Home announced the names of Police Officers, who have been selected for the award of President's Medals for outstanding and remarkable services on the occasion of Independence Day. They would receive the awards on the Republic Day, 2003. Shri Anup Kumar Patnaik, Special I.G. Police, Cuttack, Shri G.C. Biswal, Inspector (Vigilance), Cuttack will receive the awards for their outstanding services. Shri P.K. Mohanty, Inspector, Brajarajnagar, Shri B.B. Dash, Inspector, Cuttack, Shri T.P. Sarangi, Inspector, Vigilance, Cuttack, Shri Debadutta Patnaik, Inspector (Vigilance), Cuttack, Shri Jita Bahadur Gurung, Jamadar, Jharsuguda have been selected for the award for their remarkable services.

Shri N.C. Padhi, D.G. (Police) and other high ranking officers were present on the occasion.

TEACHERS, STUDENTS AND MUNICIPAL BODIES HONOURED

Each of the 19 students, who occupied the best ten positions at the H.S.C. examination this year, was presented a cash award of Rs.3,000/- alongwith a citation. Gold Medals were conferred on Kumari Subhrakali Paramguru and Shri Debashis Panda, who jointly occupied the first position. Shields and certificates were given away to 7 Municipal bodies - Deogarh, Keonjhar, Brajarajnagar Municipalities and Balimela, Khariar, Barbil and Kesinga NACs of the State. Besides, 38 teachers Organisations - Marwari Yuba Manch and Sahay -- received cups from the Chief Minister.

At a function organised jointly by the School and Mass Education Department and Housing and Urban Development Department, the Chief Minister announced that 7,827 persons, who worked under the Operation Black Board Scheme, would be rehabilitated.

CELEBRATIONS AT OTHER PLACES

Independence Day was celebrated in a spirit of joy and enthusiasm all over the State. Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Law, Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan unfurled the national tricolour and took salute at the combined parade. In his speech, he urged the people to work unitedly to build a progressive and prosperous State. At Puri, Hon'ble Minister, Panchayati Raj, Information & Public



Cuttack



Puri

Relations and Culture, Dr Damodar Rout unfurled the national flag and took salute at the parade. In his address, he called upon the people to derive inspiration from the dedicated spirit of the freedom fighters and work for the progress of the nation. He recounted the past glory of Orissa and hoped that the State would emerge as a leading State in the future. Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Shri K.V. Singh Deo was the Chief Guest at Kendrapara. He hoisted the national flag, took salute at the parade and addressed the gathering.

At Sambalpur, the national tricolour was unfurled by Hon'ble Minister, Energy, Shri Surjya Narayan Patro, who urged the people to work for the prosperity of the State. Hon'ble Minister, Health and Family Welfare, Shri Prafulla Chandra Ghadai hoisted the flag on the parade ground at Keonjhar. Addressing the gathering, Shri Ghadai said that though Orissa is rich in mineral resources, it is one of the poorest States in the country. The State is devastated by natural calamities like flood, cyclone and drought. People should come forward to work for the prosperity of the State. At Bolangir, Hon'ble Minister of State for Higher Education, Shri Bimbadhar Kuanr hoisted the flag. In his address, he appealed to the people to work unitedly for the development of the State. Hon'ble Minister for Sports and Youth Services, Shri Ranendra Pratap Swain unfurled the tricolour at Koraput. In his speech, he called upon the Government officials and people's representatives to implement welfare schemes in the remote areas. At Malkangiri, Hon'ble Minister of State for Water Resources, Shri Rabi Narayan Nanda unfurled flag. In his address, he urged the people to foil the attempts of disruptive elements.

At Nayagarh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Finance, Shri Panchanan Kanungo unfurled the national tricolour, took salute and addressed the gathering. Hon'ble Minister for Women & Child Development, Smt. Bishnupriya Behera hoisted the national flag at Boudh. She called upon the people to renew their pledge to preserve the unity and integrity of the nation. She also distributed prizes to the students. Hon'ble Minister of State for SC and ST Development, Minorities and Backward Classes Welfare, Shri Balabhadra Majhi hoisted the national flag at GCD High School ground, Rayagada and inspected the parade.



Nayagarh

Independence Day was also celebrated at other places. The unfurling of the national tricolour, ceremonial parade and distribution of prizes, certificates and shields marked the occasion.



National Unity and Secularism

THE TEXT OF THE SPEECH OF HIS EXCELLENCY SHRI M.M. RAJENDRAN,
GOVERNOR OF ORISSA, ON THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATION OF THE
MILLENNIUM CONFERENCE OF SHRI DADABHAI NAOROJI'S
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY AT INDIAN MERCHANTS' CHAMBER HALL,
MUMBAI ON MARCH 30, 2002

We have gathered today to commemorate the memory of one of our tallest leaders of freedom movement, tall not in physical stature, but in his deep insight into Indian psyche, his integrity, undisputed qualities of leadership and his remarkable ability to anticipate the course of events. He became a legend in his own life time and had the unique distinction of presiding over the Session, of the Indian National Congress three times. Ambika Charan Mazumdar has most appropriately described him as "slim but Godly figure, shining like a chiselled marble statue, short in stature but colossal in equipment whose turban made up for his height." Far ahead of his time, as a social reformer par excellence, he stood for the education of masses, the upliftment of women and widow-remarriage. Politically he made a forthright declaration that the goal of India was at absolute and unqualified Swaraj. Perhaps, there is no better tribute to him than what Gokhale said: "What a life it has been. Its sweet purity, its gentle forbearance, its noble self-denial, its lofty patriotism, its abounding love, its strenuous pursuit of high aims as one contemplates that, one feels as though one stood in a higher presence." To perpetuate the memory of such a great son of the soil, it is our foremost duty and responsibility to strive to achieve the ideals that were dear to his heart.

2. The topic for the talk "National Unity and Secularism" is, in today's context, perhaps more relevant than in any other time. Its importance has many dimensions, demanding introspection by all of us, so that our hard won freedom is put to benefit all sections of the people of our country. I would like to deal here with some of the important factors -political, geographical, cultural and religious -that contribute to our national unity and then go on to consider secularism in the historical perspective and in the Indian context.

3. We all know that India is a Union of States as defined in the Constitution. It is strictly not a federal state, which is often associated with autonomous States coming together to form a Federation. But the Union that we have, because of its historical background, is more unitary in character than most states having a federal constitution. Let me draw your attention to the special features, which provide for the preeminent role given to the Parliament and the Central Government in our Constitutional set up. In the distribution of powers between the Centre and the States given in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, List I gives the powers of the Union. This list is not only more exhaustive than List II relating to the powers of the State, it also provides that all the

residuary powers, which are not mentioned in any of the lists shall be vested in the Union. There is also a Concurrent List, which provides for concurrent jurisdiction of the State Legislature and Parliament. But in the case of overlap or repugnancy between the Concurrent List and State List, the power of the Union Parliament shall prevail. Our Constitution, unlike in most of the federal constitutions, provides for contingencies of Emergency, and even take over of the administration of the State if there is breakdown in the constitutional functioning, when the Union will have overriding powers over the States. (Articles 352, 353, 356 and 360). A special feature of our Constitution is also for having All India Services whose Members are appointed by the President and whose ultimate loyalty is to the Union, to serve in the States in key positions in public administration. These are some of the features of our Constitution, which are pointers to the preeminent position that has been given to the Union to establish our national unity. That the founding fathers of our Constitution have chosen to provide such safeguards is a pointer to the importance of preserving the national unity at any cost and their wisdom is more than amply justified in today's context when despite the differences among the parties in power in different states, the integrity and unity of our country is not in any way jeopardized.

4. It has been said that one of the gifts of the British rule in India was the political unification of the country under one paramount power. But it is not entirely a correct statement because the British India had not covered 600 Princely states, whose local rulers had a large measure of independence in matters other than defence, external relations and some crucial economic policies. More importantly, such political unification had taken place many times before. As early as in the 3rd century BC, Emperor Ashoka had brought the entire country from Afghanistan to Mysore under his suzerainty, notwithstanding the poor modes of communication that existed then. While such a feat had not been achieved to the same extent by any other ruler till the Moghal period, Chandragupta, Samudra Gupta and Harshavardhana also brought under their control most parts of India, north of Vindhyas. *Arthashastra* of Kautilya displays a good knowledge of economic products of various regions of India including the South. The fundamental unity of India was captured in the expression "Bharatvarsha" the indigenous classic name with a deep historical significance depicting the fundamental unity perceived by the people of those times. Its significance becomes clear as argued by Dr. Radha Kumud Mukherji, when we realise that a common name is given to different parts, only when there is something in common that binds them together.

5. Geographically, India is marked by Nature as a distinct geographical unit separated from the rest of Asia by natural boundaries, the Himalayas separating India from the rest of Asia while in the south, west and east, the oceans are the boundaries. A country is a distinct geographical unit, if the barriers that come in the way of its different regions are less obstructive than those which isolate the area from the surrounding territories. India, with its well-demarcated geographical boundaries with a vast expanse of land without any major barriers inside clearly fulfils this criterion.

6. Another important factor that contributes to unity is the cultural bond that binds people together. We have a wide spectrum of races, people with different languages and followers of practically all religions of the world. One might say that India is a museum of cults and customs,

creeds and cultures, faiths and tongues, racial types and social customs. But we need not be put off by these differences, as beneath all the manifold variety, there is an underlying fundamental unity of the people, the diversity itself far from being a source of weakness, has been a source of strength and cultural wealth. If we consciously preserve and promote this deeper unity in the lives of our people without emphasising the differences born out of politics, there will be further growth in our understanding of the people's way of life and their values.

7. Oneness of the people and the nation is best illustrated in the sacred places mentioned in our ancient texts. The Puranic prayer and the *Sivapurana* talk of the seven Gangas including the South Indian rivers Cauvery and Tambaraparani. The seven sacred places which every devotee is enjoined to visit embraces places in different parts of India - Ayodhya, Mathura, Hardwar, Kashi, Kanchi, Avanti and Dwaraka. The four most meritorious places of pilgrimage suggested by Sankaracharya lie in four extreme points, Badri Kedarnath, Rameswaram, Dwaraka and Jagannath. Pilgrimage to these Holy places involved wide travelling and, without the help of automobiles in those days, helped to create closer understanding of the land and the people so as to cultivate a cosmopolitan outlook, subdue narrow localism and provincialism, which are hindrances to the growth of a strong nation. Our ancestors have thus in their own way brought about internal cohesion and unity among the people of the country despite racial, linguistic and cultural differences, to practise the ancient Indian concept of *Vasudaiva Kutumbakam*.

8. I shall now deal with the multiplicity of religions in the country and how it has necessitated acceptance of the concept of secularism. Religion and the rituals associated with it have, from time immemorial, played a great role in the day to day lives of our people. Swami Vivekananda, who pointedly brought out the significance of religion in the Asian countries and India in particular, said: "The intensest love that humanity has ever known has come from religion and the most diabolical hatred that humanity has known has also come from religion ... nothing makes us so cruel as religion and nothing makes us so tender as religion." Realising this important role of religion in the lives of the people, Swamiji dedicatedly worked towards creating better understanding among all religions which will lead to universal brotherhood and for this purpose he propounded the concept of a Universal Religion. Striving to develop the concept further, Swamiji dissects religion into three important facets : (1) Philosophy which consists of basic principles, goal and means of reaching the goal, (2) Mythological part, which concretises the philosophy consisting of legends relating to lives of men or of supernatural elements and (3) Rituals, which form ceremonies, physical attitudes and other things appealing to the senses. Each religion has all the three ingredients and each of them claims that theirs is the full truth. Even words like Universal Brotherhood, which are used by spiritually oriented people, seem to get limited to be used only for the people who are following their own faith. While it is conceded, there cannot be only one set of philosophy or mythology or rituals, universally accepted by all, there must be a realisation that truth can be expressed in many different ways and each of these is true as far as it goes. All of us are not alike, yet we are all human beings. There is an abstract humanity that is common to all of us. Likewise, God is like a thread that runs through the string of pearls and the Universal Religion, which Swamiji formulated, runs through all the religions in the form of God.

9. In his address to the Parliament of Religions in Chicago in 1893, he declared "I am proud to belong to a religion which has taught the World both tolerance and universal acceptance. We believe not only in toleration but we also accept all religions as true." In another context, he developed the argument: "If it be true that God is the centre of all religions and that each of us is moving towards Him, along one of these radii, then it is certain that all of us must reach that centre and at the centre where all the radii meet, all our differences will cease; but until we reach there, differences there must be." In Swamiji's view, to strengthen our national unity we have to build on the one common ground that we have, that is our religion. To the Indian mind, there is nothing higher than religious ideals and it is this medium which offers the best hope for constructive work and achieving National Unity. By this I do not mean anyone religion with its narrow boundaries, but a Universal Religion, which has God at the Centre and recognises that all religions are seekers of the same Truth that is God. With such a Universal Religion accepted by people, it is not necessary for a follower of any religion to change to another but each must try to assimilate the spirit of the other religions, preserving at the same time his own individuality and augmenting his spiritual strength.

10. The concept of Secularism is closely related to what I have said about development of a Universal Religion, but is not limited by it. The English word "Secularism" was derived from the Latin word "Saeculum" which means an age or the spirit of an age. The Oxford English Dictionary defines Secularism as "The doctrine that morality should be determined solely with regard to the well being of humankind in the present life, to the exclusion of all considerations drawn from belief in God or a future state:"

11. The conflict between religious faith and human reason in the West had been raging for several centuries. The control of the Catholic Church over not only religious practices but also of non-religious aspects of the life of the people had given a role to the Church much beyond what it was as a religious institution. Protestantism and Martin Luther advocated the concept of separation of Church from its control over non-religious matters. The Enlightenment or the Age of Reason in the second half of 18th Century created the eventual ambience for the development of the concept of secularism. Immanuel Kant said, "Enlightenment is man's emergence from his self-incurred immaturity." The process of secularism encompasses all aspects of life including art, history, politics and science. Max Weber and Peter Berger very pertinently pointed out the essential linkages among Protestantism, individualisation and secularisation. Peter Berger sets out the sociological concept of secularism, in the words: "The process by which sectors of society and culture are removed from the domination of religious institutions and symbols." Karl Marx was perhaps the most powerful advocate of secularism when he made the statement, "Man makes religion, religion does not make man."

12. The Indian concept of secularism as it is understood today derives inspiration from some developments in France and the United States. The French Constitution of 1791 secularized the state and eventually the total separation of Church and the State came about in 1905. The First Amendment of the American Constitution in 1791 introduced the concept of non- interference of Government in matters relating to Church and an inalienable right -the "liberty right" as it came to

be called -to the citizen to follow the religion of his or her choice or none at all. All India Congress Committee in its Karachi Session of 1931 passed a resolution to give freedom of conscience and right to profession and practice of any religion. All citizens of free India would be equal before law, irrespective of religious differences and State would observe neutrality with regard to all religions (*Dharma Nirpekshata*). The "liberty right" enshrined in the American Constitution and reaffirmed by the Karachi AICC resolution formed the basis for the relevant constitutional provisions in India. But the pervasive character of religion made the privatisation of religion problematic. Against the backdrop of religion based partition of the country and with religious minorities accounting for about 20% of the population which will be even more if we include Scheduled Tribes, most of who despite their religiosity were not followers of any recognised religion, made it imperative to accommodate the specificities of religious belief and practice. It was out of this consideration was born the concept of the secular state in India as one of respect for all religions or non-discrimination on the ground of religion.

13. Let us see what the relevant Constitutional provisions are. It is interesting to note that in the original Constitution, there was no mention of secularism anywhere and even the word "Secular" occurred only once in Article 25 and that too to denote an aspect of religious practice. The addition of the word "Secular" to the Preamble to the Constitution came through the 42nd amendment in 1976. Even before this amendment, in the Kesavananda case of 1973 and subsequently in the Bommai case of 1994, the Supreme Court has laid down Secularism as a "basic feature of the Constitution and therefore cannot be tinkered with by any amendment of the Constitution. Article 25 confers its citizens freedom of conscience, free profession, practice and propagation of religion. Art. 26 gives freedom to manage religious affairs. Art. 27 guarantees freedom from the payment of taxes for promotion of any religion. Art. 28 prohibits compulsion for attendance in religious instruction and worship in educational institutions. Articles 29 and 30 give cultural and educational rights to the minorities, in particular in running educational institutions and admission into state supported educational institutions. The Constitution was amended in 1976 to lay down certain Fundamental Duties for every citizen which, inter alia, included promoting harmony and spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities etc. , This gives the broad Constitutional framework on which our edifice of secularism stands.

14. The concept of secularism as adumbrated in the Constitution seems to define it as equal respect for all religions -*Sarvadharmasadbhava*. In the Hindi version of the Constitution, neutrality of the State to different religious communities is brought out by the word *Pantha nirpeksha*. The wider interpretation of such secularism is, as T.N.Madan says, an attitude of goodwill towards all religions, but a narrower formulation can lead to a negative or defensive policy of religious neutrality. The goodwill towards all religions mindset is the pre-partition Gandhian universalist attitude while the religious neutrality mindset is the Nehruvian demythologised post-partition variant.

15. Between the two extremes of total elimination of religion from public policy and the subordination of public policy to any particular religion, there exists a third option, which can be

called as multi-religious state. As James Larson states, "No one religion would be favoured or established but all would be recognised and 'enfranchised' as it were, in matters of public policy." Such a multi-religious State would have to accept religious pluralism. There are at least 3 aspects of pluralism, which we may consider. Firstly, mutual exclusiveness of religions. One is reminded of the Quranic verse 109.3: "To you your religion, to me mine." Such exclusiveness does not envisage any conflict among religions, but does not also lead to any understanding among the followers of different faiths. Secondly, convergence of fundamentals of different faiths, although defined differently. The position taken by Swami Vivekananda to Mahatma Gandhi and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad would broadly fall within this category of pluralism." Gandhi's distrust of even voluntary religious conversions on the ground that a sincere seeker of Truth will find it in his own religion is possibly the best expression of this kind of pluralisation. Thirdly, the more dynamic approach is through religious understanding and learning from all religions based on the premise that no religion has monopoly over the whole truth. The issue here is not one of tolerance or respect but understanding and learning. Sri Ramakrishna embraced this concept when he chose to live for a while as a practising Muslim. Mahatma Gandhi had come close to this approach when he declared that in the Sermon on the Mount: "Jesus had given a definition of Dharma." He also admitted Islam's contribution to India's National Culture "through its unadulterated belief in the oneness of God and a practical application of the truth of the brotherhood of man for those who are within its fold."

16. Many of the South Asian Muslim thinkers and spiritually inclined seekers have tried to look for commonality between Islam and India's other religions and have commended the religious pluralist attitude. Dara Shikoh was not the only one, but was perhaps the most famous of such seekers. Dara Shikoh had suggested rapprochement between Hinduism and Islam arguing that Hindu Upanishadic thought held the key to a full understanding of Quran. But his view on Hinduism as twin brother of Islam was pronounced heretical by the Ulama. As the historian Qureshi puts it: "The orthodox group had everything to fear if Dara Shikoh came to the throne because all they had achieved since the last days of Akbar would be undone... The main difference between Akbar and Shikoh would have been that whereas Akbar's mind was not disciplined through formal education, Dara Shikoh was a competent scholar. Thus, he could injure the interests of orthodoxy more seriously."

17. For centuries, Orthodox religious groups have tried to manipulate the levers of political power using religion as a tool. Dara Shikoh's martyrdom was one example. More recently, Jinnah, who was earlier a secular nationalist, transferred his loyalty to Muslim separatism to achieve power. Having achieved his objective of a separate Muslim Nation in Pakistan, Jinnah called for burying the communal hatchet and declared on 11 August 1947 in his Presidential address to the Constituent Assembly as recorded by Stanely Wolpert in his book, *Jinnah of Pakistan*: a citizen of Pakistan may belong to any religion or caste or creed that has nothing to do with the business of the State ... Hindus would cease to be Hindus and Muslims would cease to be Muslims...not in the religious sense, because that is the personal faith of each individual, but in the political sense as citizens of the State...". It is unfortunate that these words of Jinnah were not translated into action

in our neighbouring country. On the other hand, attempts have been made to suppress this secularist speech from the very day it was uttered. If this had not been done, the history of Indo-Pak relations would have taken a very much more smooth and congenial path.

18. In conclusion, I quote the words of our First Governor General, Shri C.Rajagopalachari, who declared at the time of Independence: "If India's Government is to be an institution integrated with her people's lives, if it is to be a true democracy and not a superimposed western institution staged in Indian dress, religion must have an important and recognised place in it, with impartiality and equal reverence for all the creeds and denominations prevailing in India. This alone would be historically consistent with the peaceful revolution, brought about by our Nation's Father." What Rajagopalachari said would be the second level of religious pluralism, but I am confident that if this is practised sincerely, it will ultimately lead us to the third level of pluralism of understanding and learning from all religions and perfect amity among people of all religions, the ultimate goal of secularism.

Thank you,

Jai Hind.

CALENDER OF EVENTS : SEPTEMBER

1-7	NATIONAL NUTRITION WEEK
5	TEACHERS' DAY
8	INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY
14	SANCHAYIKA DAY
14	HINDI DIVAS
23	WORLD DEAF DAY
27	WORLD TOURISM DAY



Touch Orissa *To feel India from within*

A. U. Singh Deo

[Address of the Hon'ble Minister at XVIII IATO Annual Convention held at Kolkata, August 29 - September 01, 2002]

I take immense pleasure in participating in this 18th convention of IATO. It is befitting that this important convention is being held in the eastern region at Kolkata. At this juncture it may be recalled that Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Prime Minister of India, while addressing the Chief Ministers and Tourism Ministers Conference in New Delhi on 30th October 2001 emphasized on the need to focus on domestic tourism and on tapping the enormous tourism potential in the eastern and north eastern states of India. I hope this convention will strengthen our efforts to promote tourism in Orissa, the emerald of the east.

"Orissa is a land of repose, of faith and dream, basking in the tropical sun, caressed by the wind and the rain, its precious tranquility contained in its songs and its stones, and pervading its social and cultural fabric." This is how Sri Jayanta Mahapatra, a famous Indo-Anglian poet, sums up Orissa. I am sure, you would agree with this, for Orissa is not a new destination for all of you.

Recently I took charge of the Tourism Department of the State and for me it is a homecoming, for I had held this portfolio a decade ago. I am not going to elaborate much on the tourism potentials of the State, rather I would touch upon the current thinking in the

Government with regard to tourism promotion, when the travel trade allover is facing a big challenge and undergoing a paradigm shift.

The merit of tourism industry as an employment- multiplier and its spin-off impact on the economy have been talked about in forums like this for quite some time. We in Orissa are seeing that happening in our own back yard. A recent study conducted at Satapada in Chilika demonstrates how tourism can make a difference to the local economy. We notice that happening in and around Konarak, at Raghurajpur and even at remote places of Koraput district. The Government is conscious of the fact that tourism can be the most suitable growth engine for a State like Orissa and can be a tool to address rural poverty.

This realization has resulted in following a new approach within Tourism Department. Tourism being a 'civilisational issue' we are trying to enhance the societal understanding of the basic concept of tourism. We intend to broadbase the stake holding and the community ownership of tourism. The District Tourism Council will soon be a reality. We are trying to create synergy at every level and pool in the scarce resources for building tourism infrastructure. For the successful

implementation of our Rural Tourism project at Raghurajpur, we have ensured convergence of several government departments and non-government agencies apart from working in close co-ordination with the Government of India.

We are conscious that potential alone does not attract tourists. Necessary infrastructure is needed to be in place. Tourism Projects being capital intensive, it is not possible to develop all the infrastructures in the Public Sector and hence, we encourage private investment. The Orissa Tourism Policy 1997 lays emphasis on encouraging the private sector for investing in tourism infrastructure. Orissa was the first State to declare hotel an industry in 1980, following which the number of hotels have increased from 188 to 817 by 2001 and a lot more are in the pipeline. Hotels have also been declared Public Utility Service under the I.D. Act. Apart from hotels -including Motels & Wayside Amenities -tourism related activities such as tourist transport, water sports, motor launch, aero sports, golf course, rope ways, amusement parks, health resorts- and camping sites are also treated as industry.

The process of privatization has already been set in motion. We have leased out some of our tourist bungalows to private entrepreneurs and more will follow. Joint venture projects will also be encouraged.

We are inclined to follow a master plan approach to identify destination, circuit and product development projects and to prepare detailed reports through professional consultants in order to market such projects. A master plan prepared for peripheral area "development of Konarak is awaiting Government of India approval. The master plan for Raghurajpur is being given final touch. A

master plan for the development of the Buddhist circuit connecting Dhauli, Lalitgiri, Udayagiri and Ratnagiri will be prepared through professional agencies and a few more projects are also in the pipeline. Special Tourism Area Project is being developed between Puri and Chilika on the coast of Bay of Bengal. We have identified Government land near Chandrabhaga beach at Konarak for a resort project to be promoted through private sector.

New hotels with excellent conference facilities have come up in Bhubaneswar. Thanks to this growth in hotel sector, Orissa is emerging as a business tourism destination. Many national level conventions are taking place in Bhubaneswar. We would like to work hard on this segment. I would like to request IATO authorities to consider Bhubaneswar as the venue for their future conventions.

We in Orissa tourism are glad to note that the National Tourism Policy 2002 lays emphasis on the segments such as heritage tourism, rural tourism and eco-tourism. The policy further advocates that the deep-rooted relationship of tourism and our cultural assets should be fully recognized and provided for.



Hon'ble Minister, Tourism, IT and Steel & Mines, Shri A.U. Singh Deo, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Shri R. Balakrishnan at the IATO Convention, Kolkata on August 29, 2002

We are aware that Orissa has its traditional strength in all these segments. We only have to package and position our products through appropriate marketing strategy. As India Tourism gears itself to show-case the nation's cultural assets, we in Orissa Tourism would rightfully like to invite each one of you and through you the tourists to touch Orissa to feel India from within.'

I am glad that some of you have chosen to visit Orissa after this convention. I would

like to extend a warm welcome to you in advance on behalf of Orissa Tourism and on my own behalf. I assure you that the Department of Tourism, travel trade, hotel industry and the tourist friendly people of Orissa will make your FAM TOUR meaningful and memorable.

A.U. Singh Deo is Minister, Tourism, Information Technology and Steel and Mines, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar.

TOUR OPERATORS' TEAM VISIT ORISSA

After the 18th Annual Convention of the Indian Association of Tour Operators at Kolkata, a delegation consisting of 21 prominent travel and tour operators from all over the country visited Orissa in the first week of September. The visit was organised by the Travel Agents Association of Orissa (TAAO) in collaboration with the State Tourism Department and Hotel and Restaurants Association of Orissa in order to familiarise the operators with the tourism potential of the State. Tourism Department sponsored the travel arrangements and hosted a cultural programme; HRAO and TAAO extended accommodation and allied support services to the visiting delegation. The team visited Puri, Konark and a number of other tourist spots. The delegation shared their experiences with the hosts and mediapersons before leaving Bhubaneswar.



A Destination in the Making

Rural Tourism Project at Raghurajpur

Raghurajpur village in Puri district occupies a unique place in the cultural map of India. The village is inhabited by artisans producing sheer poetry on pieces of treated cloth, dried palm leaf or paper.

Situated on the southern bank of river Bhargavi and surrounded by coconut, palm, mango, jackfruit groves and other tropical trees, Raghurajpur has an idyllic setting. A number of betel vines dot the nearby paddy fields. The village runs from east to west with houses arranged in two neat rows, facing each other. At the centre, runs a line of small temples and the lone Bhagabat Tungi, the community meeting place of the villagers. The temples are dedicated to the lords, Radha Mohan, Gopinath, Raghunath, Laxminarayan, Gouranga, and to the village goddess, Bhuasuni.

To reach Raghurajpur one has to get down at Chandanpur bus stop, which is about 10 km from Puri and 50 km from Bhubaneswar on N.H.No.203 connecting Puri and Bhubaneswar, two important tourist destinations of the country. From Chandanpur one has to take a cycle-rickshaw or walk on a 1.3 km scenic road to reach this village. One may also hire a taxi either from Puri or from Bhubaneswar to reach the village.

This coconut-palm shaded village is quite different from other villages of the State. It has its own identity. What is unusual is the number of outsiders including foreigners visiting the village round the year. These people don't come here to see a typical Orissan village from close quarters but to see and enjoy the rich traditions of Orissan arts and crafts at one place. The village has a community of artisans, who produce different varieties of handicrafts items such as *patta* paintings, palm leaf engravings, stone carvings, papier mache toys and masks, wood carvings, wooden toys, cow-

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ 10 villages in India to be identified for development of Rural Tourism during this year.
- ✓ Raghurajpur village has been identified under this scheme. Hon'ble Union Minister for Tourism and Culture visited the village on 27th June 2002 and indicated to launch the programme there on 2nd October 2002.
- ✓ INTACH has been identified to prepare the project report at a cost of Rs 3 lakh.
- ✓ UNICEF has been roped in for improvement of sanitation programme such as drinking water supply and provision of flush toilet in each household.
- ✓ Handicraft Department has been co-opted to provide necessary assistance.
- ✓ The road from Chandanpur to Raghurajpur would be developed by R.D. Department (under RIDF scheme).

ding toys and tusser paintings. Perhaps nowhere else in India one finds such a congregation of so many arts at one place. This is also the only village in India, where each family is engaged in one craft or another. There are 103 households having 311 artisans in the village. Some of them are winners of National Awards. One comes across the best tradition of Orissan paintings and some of the finest pieces of work in this village.

Besides producing these unique works of art, this village has a living tradition of performing art known as Gotipua, the earlier form of Odissi. A worthy son of Orissa, Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra, an exponent of Odissi dance, was born in this village and had his early trainings in Gotipua tradition here. Now a Gotipua Gurukul, namely Maa Dasabhuja Gotipua Odissi Dance School has been established here under the guidance of Guru Maguni Charan Das. The trainees of this school present their performances in different cultural events, in India and abroad.



Hon'ble Union Minister for Tourism and Culture, Shri Jagmohan at Raghurajpur

INTACH selected this village to revive the ancient wall paintings of Orissa. The work has already been completed and now the village looks like a living museum of paintings.



Hon'ble Union Minister for Tourism and Culture, Shri Jagmohan witnessing a cultural programme

To give this village its rightful place both in the cultural and tourist maps of the country, Orissa Tourism and Ministry of Tourism, Government of India have identified this village for development of Rural Tourism. After visiting Raghurajpur on June 27, 2002, Shri Jagmohan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Tourism and Culture, declared that this village would be developed as a model for rural tourism in India. INTACH is preparing the Project Report for this village, which would be implemented shortly. Basic tourist amenities such as road, drinking water, sanitation, interpretation centre, rest house, etc. would come up soon.

Government of Orissa is taking initiatives to develop the roads from Chandanpur and Kathapola to Raghurajpur and is urging the UNICEF to provide clean water to the village. To achieve this task, various Departments of Government of Orissa are converging their resources.

Once the Rural Tourism Project is completed, Raghurajpur will come in the National Travel Circuit of the Government of India.

Inputs : P.K. Jena, Assistant Director, (Production), Tourism Department, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar - 751014

Orissa Drought - 2002

The State of Orissa is prone to multiple hazards. One calamity or another hits the State every year. The State, which suffered a severe drought in 1998, was ravaged in 1999, by what is now awfully known as the super cyclone. Again, the State faced a drought in 2000. Then it was the turn of a super flood in 2001 and now, a severe drought seems to be an inescapable reality. More than 80% of the geographical area and nearly 90% of the population are vulnerable to one or more disasters. With more than 66% of the population living below the poverty line, the coping mechanism of the State and its people is constantly under severe strain. Although positive and meaningful steps have been taken to prepare the community against natural disasters, there is hardly any time left to complete the process. Before the preparedness exercise yields any concrete and tangible result, another calamity visits the State, shifting the focus from reconstruction to relief and rehabilitation measures. And, the vicious cycle continues.

The demography of the State is marked by a deep concentration of disadvantaged and vulnerable populations such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and people belonging to backward sections. The fragile socio-economic situation is reflected in high

incidence of poverty and over dependence on the primary sector, particularly on agricultural wage employment, low literacy rate, relatively low life expectancy, high infant mortality, grave malnutrition and low urbanisation. The fact that more than 80% of the land holdings are either marginal (53.66%) or small (26.22%) and that there are 16.89 lakh families of agricultural labourers whose livelihood depends on agriculture will give an idea.

Agriculture in Orissa is mainly rain-fed, as only 35% of the cultivated area of 64 lakh hectares in the State has irrigation facilities from various sources, some of which are again dependent on rainfall. The rivers of the State are rain-fed and they receive their runoff mainly from the monsoon rainfall. This year, the monsoon, which was punctual in its arrival, has proved highly erratic in its behaviour. The July rainfall, which 'makes or breaks', has been 60% less than normal. Not even a single district of the State has received normal rainfall during the crucial month of July. Statistically, it is the lowest rainfall experienced in July during the last 40 years. With high levels of day temperature, the initial weeks of the monsoon season appeared like an extended summer. Along with the rainfed minor irrigation projects, the medium and major irrigation projects also suffered the

impact of weak monsoon and inadequate rainfall. As a result, agricultural operations during Kharif-2002 received a serious setback. As the crucial July rain failed, 7.73 lakh hectares of paddy land remained fallow. With *gajamarudi* affecting 86,000 hectares; the agricultural operations such as *beushan* and transplantation were hampered. The average crop loss of the State has been estimated at 68%.

With all the 30 districts and 283 out of 314 blocks having been identified as drought affected, the State is preparing itself to fight another high-impact calamity. The impact of the current drought on the fragile economy of the State should be evaluated in the context of recurring disasters and not in isolation. A decade long story of multiple disasters gripping the State is evident from the following facts.

Year	Calamity
2002	Drought
2001	Flood
2000	Drought
1999	Super Cyclone
1998	Drought
1997	Drought
1996	Drought
1995	Flood
1994	*
1993	*
1992	Flood

An attempt is made to assess the cause and impact of this drought and identify the areas of intervention in order to mitigate the impact and to estimate the financial assistance required for the same.

- Orissa is facing a serious drought situation.
- Inadequate and sporadic rainfall during June (20% less) and July (60% less) is mainly responsible for the calamity.

- Rainfall during the 1st fortnight of August is encouraging; but it cannot salvage the damage already done.
- Crop loss more than 50% in 28.46 (20.73 broadcasted + 7.73 fallow) lakh ha. is anticipated.
- Estimated paddy production loss is 35.42 LMT (approx) at a value of more than 1800 cr.
- Government has declared 30 districts and 283 blocks as drought affected.
- Rs.871.40 cr. and 12.19 LMT of food grain has been sought by the State as assistance to mitigate the impact of disaster.
- Sectorwise interventions and assistance required is shown at the Table :
- Other critical interventions in PDS, SNP have also been sought for.

Table

Sector-wise Interventions	Amount (Rs. in Cr.)	Food Grain (in LMT)
Agriculture (Seed and other inputs)	10.00	
Agriculture Credit (Crop loan and Insurance)	61.00	
Food Security (GR, SNP, EFP)	38.39	
Employment Generation	514.56	10.16
Drinking Water Supply (Rural + Urban)	58.78	
Health Measures	2.75	
Immediate Irrigation Measures	17.86	
Water Resources Management	110.30	2.00
Fisheries and Animal Resources Welfare Measures	52.55	0.03
Sericulture	3.21	
Exemption of fees (Tuition and Examination)	2.00	
Total	871.40	12.19

Apart from above, the Government has also demanded the following interventions from Government of India :

- Removal of price difference between APL rice and BPL rice in the drought affected areas of the State.
- Inclusion of 50,000 additional beneficiaries under Annapurna Yojana with financial assistance from GOI
- Increase in the quota of kerosene oil.

Steps taken by Government

Administrative Measures

The State Government has been constantly monitoring the situation and following administrative steps have been taken :

- ✓ Special meeting of Council of Ministers convened to review drought situation.
- ✓ A Cabinet Sub-Committee headed by the Minister of Revenue formed to conduct fortnightly review.
- ✓ Ministers deputed to district headquarters to review the drought situation.
- ✓ A high level official team headed by Agricultural Production Commissioner of the State made an on the spot assessment of the drought affected districts of western Orissa.
- ✓ Secretaries of various Departments have visited the districts for extensive field study and monitoring the situation.
- ✓ A series of drought management circulars have been issued by Government.
- ✓ Inter-departmental co-ordination is being ensured to synchronize the drought mitigation efforts.
- ✓ Drought mitigation plans for the districts have been finalized at the respective district levels.

Mitigation Measures

- Agricultural labourers and marginal farmers are deprived of employment due to stoppage of agri-cultural operations. They are in distress. Hence, all the Collectors have been requested to prepare a Shelf of Projects and to



Hon'ble Chief Minister, assessing the drought situation at Turang near Baanrpal in Angul district on 24.8.02

provide labour intensive work for food security. Further, Government has sanctioned the following amount as advance measures to mitigate the impact of drought.

- * Rs.2.07 cr. sanctioned for protective irrigation.
- * Rs.18.84 cr. sanctioned for taking up labour intensive works in order to provide need-based employment.
- * Rs.1.22 cr. sanctioned in favour of all Collectors towards revival of operable LI points to mitigate the drought situation.

GRATUITOUS RELIEF

In the wake of serious drought in Orissa, an amount of Rs.95 lakh has been sanctioned and released in favour of all the 30 districts under the head 'Gratuitous Relief' in kind to ensure food security for the needy and vulnerable people in the scarcity pockets.

District wise break up is as follows :
Koraput, Nawarangpur, Malkangiri, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Bolangir and Somepur Rs.5.00 lakh each; Bargarh, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundergarh, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Angul, Boudh, Kandhamal, and Nayagarh Rs.3.00 lakh each and Khurda, Puri, Balasore, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Jajpur, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Dhenkanal, Ganjam and Gajapati Rs.2.00 lakh each.

Gramsat Programme on Drought Mitigation Measures

Senior officers of the Government and specialists discussed drought mitigation measures with District Collectors and other officers through Gramsat on August 19, 2002. The panelists included Shri B.K. Patnaik, Secretary, Water Resources, Shri R.N. Senapati, Secretary, Panchayati Raj, Shri R. Balakrishnan, Special Relief Commissioner, Dr. U.N. Mishra, Dean - Research, OUAT, Shri B. Behera, General Manager, State Civil Supplies Corporation, and Shri Aurobindo Behera, Managing Director, OSDMA. Participants at the district level included Collectors, PDs-DRDAs, BDOs, DDAs, CSOs, DSWOs, EE(RWSS)s.

At the outset, MD, OSDMA presented a brief picture of the drought and outlined timely counter measures to minimize its impact. Elaborating the issue, SRC said that there has been overall crop loss of 68%, which in monetary terms comes to approximately Rs. 1800 crore. There has been erratic rainfall showing a deviation as wide as 60%, less than normal, the lowest recorded in last 40 years in the month of July. It has accentuated the situation. The aggregate rainfall received in the month of August so far suggests normal pattern, yet the situation is hardly retrievable, for paddy cultivation in un-irrigated pockets. He outlined relief measures in the pipe line for mitigating the drought impact. He also hinted at the memorandum to be submitted to Government of India for assistance.

Secretary, Panchayatiraj emphasized on employment generation through labour intensive projects and told the Collectors and Project Directors, DRDAs to ensure expeditious utilization of cash and food grains earmarked for SGRY schemes. If needed, steps should be taken to revise

the implementation plan of the scheme in view of the drought situation, with the approval of PRIs. If the Collectors feel the necessity for implementing certain projects for drought mitigation in some pockets, they could go ahead with the same with funds provided by the SRC, or submit proposals to the SRC for release of funds for execution of similar projects. Under no circumstances should there be any transfer of food grains from SGRY to any other scheme.

Speaking on revival of lift irrigation points, the Water Resources Secretary said that a sum of Rs.5000/- is being provided for each LI point in Category-I. The amount would be placed with Collectors for disbursement to the Water Users Associations concerned. Shri Patnaik also stated that arrear payments to be made by WUAs to OLIC could be deferred as per the present arrangement. Modalities are being worked out for payment of arrear dues to power distribution companies. If more funds are required for revival of LI points, proposals with unit cost estimates could be submitted to the SRC with a copy to Water Resources Department, he said.

Prof. Mishra, Dean-Research, OUAT, discussed adoption of alternate crops like ragi, gram and groundnut in moisture stress conditions. He suggested that farmers should adopt the method of planting rice seedlings in low-lying fields with little water retention. He also suggested raising of advance rabi crop. At the end, Shri Aurobindo Behera emphasized the need to plug any leakage in the public distribution system that might create food stress in view of the drought condition.

MEMORANDUM ON ORISSA DROUGHT

Hon'ble Minister, Revenue, Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan met Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture, Shri Ajit Singh on August 21, 2002 and submitted a memorandum on the drought situation in the State to the Government of India. The State sought financial assistance to the tune of Rs.871.40 cr and 12.19 LMT of foodgrains to combat the drought.

Management of Droughts

Hemanta Kumar Nayak

Scanty rainfall during the current monsoon has led to a critical situation in many parts of the country. The worst hit are the northern states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, M.P., U.P., Gujarat and many states of southern and eastern India namely Karnataka, Kerala, Orissa, Chhatisgarh. The present dry spell is really a matter of grave concern for the whole country, as it has not experienced a drought as bad and as widespread as the present one in more than twelve years. Three hundred twenty districts have been identified as drought prone. The gravity of the situation compelled the Ministry of Agriculture to draw a strategy for facing the situation and hence a joint session of those concerned was called for on 24th July 2002. The committee after reviewing the situation under the Chairmanship of the Union Agriculture Minister, Shri Ajit Singh announced some relief measures for the 12 affected states, ie. U.P., Punjab, Haryana, H.P., Rajasthan, M.P., Karnataka, A.P., Orissa, Chhatisgarh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. As far as the declaration of drought is concerned, as on July 24, 2002, only two states ie., U.P. and Karnataka have declared twenty six districts and one hundred fifty talukas, respectively as drought affected. [Later, 283 out of 314 blocks in Orissa have been declared drought affected]. The kharif crop has been worst affected due to the low rain fall situation.

If the scarcity of rainfall continues for a few more days, the situation is going to aggravate further and the country may really face the worst drought conditions.

Historically, the country has been grappling with such situation very frequently. During the last fifty years, India has experienced more than 14 major droughts, out of which the 1987 drought was the worst, which affected almost half the land of the country. The major droughts in the last five decades are as follows :

Year	% area affected in the country	Category
1951	33.2	Moderate
1952	25.8	Slight
1965	42.9	Moderate
1966	32.3	Moderate
1968	20.6	Slight
1969	19.9	Slight
1971	13.3	Slight
1972	44.4	Severe
1974	29.3	Moderate
1979	39.4	Moderate
1982	33.1	Moderate
1985	30.1	Moderate
1986	19.0	Slight
1987	49.2	Severe

Source: *Yojana* (16-30 June, 1989).

Drought and Its Causes

Drought condition in an area refers to temporary reduction in the water availability below normal in that area. Drought is defined on the basis of moisture availability in the soil, which is measured in terms of moisture index (MI). Thus drought represents an adverse moisture index or adverse water balance which is deficient for meeting the local normal crop requirements in the context of agro-climatic conditions prevailing in that particular area. Thus the problem of drought is basically an area specific problem, depending upon the nature of the crop (specially the water requirement) grown in that area. The declaration of drought in an area is done independently by the State government, based on the major criteria of rainfall and the crop loss in that particular area. These standard parameters for declaring drought on the basis of rainfall and crop loss differs from state to state. For example, the standards in Western Rajasthan, where bajra and other paltry-coarse grains are major crops and require less rainfall, are totally different from the eastern state of Orissa, where requirement of rain for paddy crop is much higher.

Drought is a "creeping" or slow onset natural hazard, which develops over a period of months and spreads over a larger area. Depending upon the physical nature, droughts may be classified basically into three categories, i.e. meteorological, hydrological and agricultural droughts. The first category refers to condition where there is a significant decrease in the precipitation (more than 25% from the normal). The hydrological drought is the result of the prolonged meteorological drought, adversely affecting the water content of the surface water bodies, like ponds, lakes,

rivers and reservoirs. Irrigation and power generation are worst affected due to this type of drought. The third category of drought is the agricultural drought, which occurs when the soil moisture and rainfall are inadequate during the sowing season, adversely affecting the crop. Beside these three major categories, droughts can be categorised basing on the impact of droughts on the socio-economic and environmental condition as socio-economic droughts, famine and ecological droughts. Beside inadequacy of rainfall, the other factors responsible for drought in an area may be lack of irrigation facilities, excessive evapo-transpiration, high temperature and low soil holding capacity.

Managing Droughts

Droughts are not new in the country. More than two thousands years ago, the great politician and philosopher of Maurya dynasty, Chanakya mentioned that the state should provide relief to the affected citizens at the time of famine. The Moghul emperors also took several measures to alleviate the impact of droughts. During the British period, famines became a regular phenomenon in one part of the country or another, basically, due to the economic exploitation by the colonial rulers. British rulers appointed three famine commissions, suggesting famine codes which are useful upto some extent to tackle the problem of local crop failure. The Bengal Famine of 1943, in which more than fifteen lakh people died, is an example of the failure of disaster management during that period. The policy of ancient rulers was restricted to providing relief to the affected population. Preventive and mitigation measures were hardly taken care of under these policies.

The present policy for drought relief has evolved over a period of time. Ministry of

Agriculture, Government of India is the nodal ministry for drought management in the country. But the centre has no role to play in declaring drought. The onus of declaring a drought in any affected district lies completely with the state. The District Collector makes an assessment and if more than 50 percent crop is found damaged, it is declared drought affected. The report is then sent to the state's Revenue Department.

Once drought is declared, normally

- * revenue collection for the region is suspended;
- * interest on loans is waived;
- * loan recovery is either stalled or staggered for a certain period;
- * Food for Work programmes are started;
- * cash relief is distributed to affected farmers;
- * assistance is given for crop damage, damage to animal husbandary, fodder, etc.

The centre has placed funds for natural calamities under two heads : Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

The Ministry of Agriculture had developed Scarcity Relief Manuals to deal with the natural calamities like drought. Alongwith alleviating distress, to fight drought more effectively, the manual also suggests an alternative crop strategy, water budgeting and employment generation in the drought affected areas. Government strategy for combating drought includes :

- (i) Early warning, including close monitoring of all meteorological, hydrological and agricultural conditions throughout the country. This helps in preparing arrangements

in advance to tackle the situation in an effective manner.

- (ii) Preparedness through appropriate arrangements to combat the drought. This includes planning for health, veterinary and ensuring food grains, drinking water and fodder supply during the drought period.

- (iii) Water conservation through budgeting and additional supplies.

- (iv) Maximum possible retrieval of crop through alternative crops, seed reserves and saving crops.

- (v) Employment generation is an integral part of drought management strategy of Government. Special funds are arranged under the developmental schemes, mainly of Rural Development Ministry for creating employment opportunities in drought affected areas.

On the basis of experience gained through management of droughts, especially the 1987 drought, the Government of India made big policy changes. Despite its severity, the mitigation measures taken during 1987 drought yielded very good results and effectively reduced the adverse impacts of drought on the socio-economic condition of the people. The basic approach during this disaster was "Moving from Relief to Management." Appropriate water management, alternative cropping strategy efforts minimized summer crop-losses and increased winter crop production. Thus the overall impact of the drought was minimized summer crop-losses and increased winter crop production. Thus the overall impact of the drought was minimized through these measures and the fall of crop production was restricted to only 3.2 percent.

Government of India revised its guidelines on drought management in 1989.

The current policy lays emphasis on mitigation and preventive measures. The relief measures have been integrated with development in the new approach. Government had identified areas prone to droughts which are being continually treated under various programmes implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment and Forests and Planning Commission. These programmes along with preventing and mitigating drought also help in developing the wasteland of the country.

The major programmes under this category are :

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Ministry of Agriculture | (i) National Watershed Development Project of Rainfed Areas |
| | (ii) Watershed Development Project in shifting cultivation areas. |
| | (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soils. |
| Ministry of Rural Development | (i) Integrated Wasteland Development project. |
| | (ii) Drought Prone Areas Programme |
| | (iii) Desert Development Programme. |
| Ministry of Environment and Forests | (i) Integrated Afforestation and Eco-Development Project |
| | (ii) Area Oriented Fuel Wood and Fodder Project. |

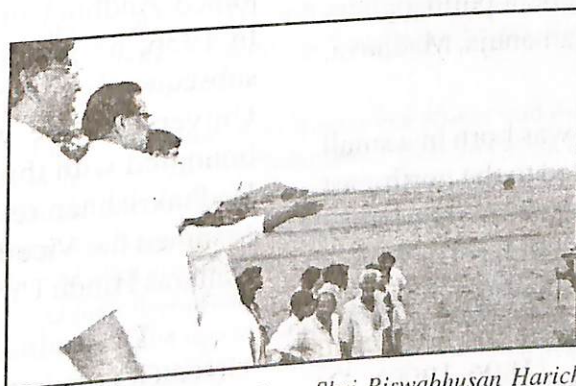
(iii) Grant-in-Aid Scheme for Afforestation and Tree Plantation.

Planning Commission

(i) Western Ghat Development Programme.

Drought is best tackled by the approach of Watershed Management, which aims at overall development of the region along with measures for mitigation of droughts. The results of these programmes have been very encouraging and enthusiastic. To combat the recent drought like condition in the country, the Ministry of Agriculture is taking appropriate measures to review the situation. After taking stock of the situation, the Ministry has announced some relief measures for the affected farmers such as relaxation in the agricultural input subsidy for all farmers, extension in period making claims under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, requesting NABARD to review their policies from State Governments and other borrowers. It is hoped that the country will be able to overcome the situation very soon and proceed on the path of development and prosperity.

Hemanta Kumar Nayak is Asst. Press Information Officer, Press Lounge, Orissa Secretariat, Bhubaneswar 751001.



Hon'ble Minister, Revenue & Law, Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan assessing the drought situation in Cuttack district on August 15, 2002.

Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan : A Tribute

Satyanarayan Mohapatra

An eminent philosopher, a distinguished statesman and a teacher par excellence, Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan occupies a unique place among the great men and women of the country. His contributions to the Indian philosophy was remarkable, mostly on account of his masterly exposition and the force of his style and diction. That apart, India's cordial relations with the U.S.S.R. were mainly due to his efforts as India's ambassador to the U.S.S.R.

Dr Radhakrishnan believed that India would occupy a distinguished position only through the medium of a moral and spiritual revolution. He achieved a synthesis of philosophy and religion. He belonged to the great Indian tradition which is set by eminent philosophers such as Shankar, Bhaskar, Ramanuja, Madhava, Charbak, Ballav and Jiva.

Dr. Radhakrishnan was born in a small town called Tiruttani situated to the north-east of Chennai on 5th September, 1888. His father, Vir Samayya was then a Tahsildar. The family shifted to Tirupathi after young Radhakrishnan completed his schooling at the Lutheran Missionary High School (1896-1900). Dr Radhakrishnan believed that he owed a lot to

the blessings of some unseen power for the beautiful environment in which he was brought up. He received education at Boorhiz College, Vellore and then at Christian College, Madras (1904-1908). The philosophy propounded by him was not limited to the domain of logic; he gave it a broader canvas drawing a harmony between philosophy and religion. He cherished the idea of one world order, *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*.



After he completed his post-graduation, he became a Lecturer of Philosophy at the Presidency College, Madras. He also served Mysore University for some time, after which he joined the King George V Department of Philosophy in Calcutta University (1921-1931). In 1931, he had joined Andhra University as Vice-Chancellor. In 1936, he joined as Hibbert Lecturer and subsequently, as Spalding Professor in Oxford University. He was the first Indian to be honoured with this dignified assignment. Dr Radhakrishnan returned to India in 1942 and assumed the Vice-Chancellorship of the great Banaras Hindu University.

Dr Radhakrishnan represented the UNESCO a number of times and served as a member of the Governing Body of UNESCO in 1941. He assumed Chairmanship of the

University Grants Commission in the same year. He had served as Ambassador to the USSR. This great philosopher-statesman was elected the Vice-President of India in 1952. He served the country in that position for two terms, after which he became the President of India in the 1962. For his sterling contributions to philosophy and statesmanship, the supreme honour of the country, 'Bharat Ratna' was conferred on him.

He received degrees and honour from several universities, both national and international. He was also admitted to knighthood in England. During 1963, he was awarded Order of Merit at the Buckingham Palace by the King of England. He had authored forty books on Indian philosophy. His important publications include *The Hindu View of Life*, *Indian Philosophy*, *Eastern Religions* and *Kalki or The Future of Civilization*. His clear exposition on religious philosophy and his masterly analysis of the facets of life are

highly acclaimed both in the national and international spheres.

In 1961, in a function held at Frankfurt in Germany, he expressed his view that India had been able to show to the world that unity could be achieved in the midst of diversity. It was not binding for all to follow one route. It was, therefore, vital that all the religions should practice tolerance.

Radhakrishnan firmly believed that one had to get rid of *avidya* or ignorance in order to know the Truth and apprehend the reality. According to him, life of every child is an experiment, an adventure into a nobler life and an opportunity to change the old pattern and make it new. As a mark of respect to this great philosopher-statesman, his birthday, the 5th of September is celebrated as Teachers' Day every year.

Satyanarayan Mohapatra lives at L3- 78, Acharya Vihar Bhubaneswar.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POET GANGADHAR MEHER

Sincere efforts are to be made to popularise the literary works of the eminent Oriya poet, Gangadhar Meher. The poet who acted as a bridge between the mediaeval age and modern age, preached the message of love and brotherhood. Hon'ble Minister, Panchayati Raj, Information & Public Relations and Culture, Dr Damodar Rout said this at the 141st birth anniversary of the poet, which was celebrated under the auspices of the Utkal University of Culture at Sookhana Bhavan, Bhubaneswar on August 22, 2002.

Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Shri Bimbadhar Kuanr said that the poet's ideas and the lyrical grace of his poetry touched the masses. Chairman of Western Orissa Development Council, Shri Ainthu Sahu threw light on the poet's life and works. Shri S.C. Hota, Agriculture Development Commissioner and Shri Parthasarathi Ajay Barik also spoke on the occasion. Vice-Chancellor of the University, Shri Narendra Kumar Mishra presided over the meeting. The premiere of the documentary film entitled, *Amrutara Santan Gangadhar Meher* produced by the Information & Public Relations Department was held on this occasion. The dance drama, *Mun 'a Amruta Sagara Bindu* was staged by the artists of the International Theatre group.

Nuakhai

Chitrasen Pasayat

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood of a majority of the people of Orissa. A large number of tribal people are cultivators or farm labourers. The important tribes of Orissa like Saura, Gond, Binjal, Mirdha, Bhumia, Kond, etc. are now settled farmers. Nuakhai is an agricultural festival of both tribals and non-tribals. Though, the festival is observed all over Orissa, it is an important event in the tribal dominated western part of Orissa. A visit to this region in the month of Bhadrav (August-September) makes one aware of the importance of Nuakhai festival. 'Nuakhai' literally means eating of newly harvested rice. It is a day of rejoicing and merry-making for the people as agriculture is their main occupation. Since paddy is the staple food of the people, the rice crops sustain their hope and determine their fate. So, both farmers and non-farmers show great interest in this festival.

Sanskritization, Aryanization and Hinduization are widely introduced and developed by the scholars to study cultural change among tribals in India. Such literature suffers from a bias because it describes social and cultural change necessarily through the Brahminical models. It means that tribals have emulated some customs of the Brahmins and discarded some of their own. On the other hand, caste-Hindus have also been influenced by the tribals in different parts of the country. Sanskritic elements have, however, received more attention in empirical studies. So, neither Sanskritization nor tribalization is found exclusively helpful in explaining and

understanding a cultural item. There is every possibility of tribal and Hindu elements co-existing in a given cultural item such as a festival.

Our hypothesis here is that the process of Sanskritization is intimately linked with the process of tribalization i.e., transformation of a tribal festival into a Hindu one and thereby its admission into the larger Hindu society. It means that there is a fusion of two processes of Sanskritization and tribalization. Although caste-Hindus adopt the tribal ritual, they do not see it as a case of de-Sanskritization or tribalization. They put Sanskritic elements and bring about a transformation. Our endeavour here is to study the transformation of a tribal festival into a Hindu one. It may be surmised here that the admission of a tribal festival into the Hindu world may come about without any drastic change in the core elements of the tribal festival. Nuakhai festival of Sambalpur is discussed in this light.

The significance and utility of 'Anna' or rice in the daily life of the people of Orissa is obvious. Hindu sacred texts also identify paddy as a synonym of life itself.

Anna Brahmeti Hyajanat
Annadeva Khalwimani Bhutani Jayante
Annena Jatani Jibanti
Annam Prayantyabhisam Bishantiti

(The other name of Anna is Brahma, Brahma is Iswara, ie. God. So, Anna is Iswar or God. Each life is born out of Anna. It is the source of energy. After death *jiva* or anything

having a life, transforms into Anna for others. So, the significance of Anna is realised in every stage of life. Thus, it is the source of life, happiness and a part of soul.)

Ahamanna Mahamanna Mahamannam
Ahamannado Ahamannado Ahamannado
Ahamanna Manna Madantama Drwi

(God says that He is Anna. I am the only receiver of this Anna. Whoever takes Anna, I accept that.)

It may be said that it is the economy that determines the cultural life of people. The economy of Orissa is based on agriculture. It is the fruit of the toil round the year that fulfills the needs of the community at large. Consequently, it is a matter of great joy for the peasants and farmers admiring the fruits of their efforts. The celebration of Nuakhai by the tribals may, therefore, be viewed as a tribalized version of a Hindu notion of 'Anna' or paddy.

The newly harvested rice is considered sacred and people do not take the food prepared from it before offering the same to the presiding deity of the place. The deity is true master or mistress of their lands, the common people believe. As a token of reverence to the reigning deity, the newly grown rice is first offered to him or her; then the *prasad* is taken by the people. People believe that the rituals are an acknowledgement of the deity's lordship over the land and the crop. In other words, it may be said that Nuakhai is a ritual after which the newly harvested rice gets the status of a consumable item.

Nuakhai is one of the most important festivals of western Orissa. It greatly influences the life and culture of this area. Earlier, there was no fixed day for the celebration of this festival. The festival was held sometimes

during the bright fortnight of the month of Bhadrav. It was the time when the newly grown Kharif paddy started ripening. Every year, the day and time of the observance was decided astrologically by Hindu priests. In Sambalpur, Brahmin priests sat together at the Brahmapura Jagannath Temple and calculated the time. Notably, observances of the day and time were not common throughout Western Orissa. *Tithi* (date) was calculated in the name of Pataneswari in Patnagarh and Bolangir, Sureswari in Sonepur, Manikeswari in Bhawanipatna and so on. So, a common day of observance was hardly found in all the places.

In some cases, the time of celebration was fixed in the name of the local zamindar or *gauntia* of the village. It shows how efforts were made in the past to localize the Nuakhai ritual. It also reflects the traditional nature of a village society in western Orissa, and the role and dominance of the village headmen over the people. According to the local source, such feudal hangover still exists in a few villages of western Orissa.

The incorporation of Hindu idea of astrology in the reckoning the *tithi* or an auspicious day or time may be viewed as a later development. Most probably, when the caste-Hindus started migrating, the local tribes adopted the idea of astrological calculation of *tithi* for the Nuakhai festival. An attempt was made to observe the festival in all places on one day, and accordingly, the fifth day of the bright fortnight of Bhadrav was fixed as the day for celebrating the festival.

Chitrasen Pasayat is Assistant Administrator,
Sri Jagannath Temple Office, Puri

The Seat of Ma Majhighariani

N.N. Nayak

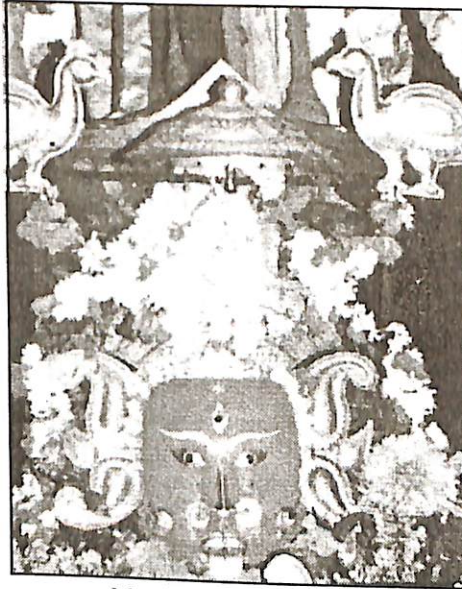
The population of Rayagada district, situated on the borders of Andhra Pradesh, is predominantly tribal. Rayagada is about 200 km from Berhampur and 150 km from Visakhapatnam. The district headquarters town has a railway station. The place is surrounded by hills. The temple of Ma Majhighariant is situated in this beautiful landscape.

As a legend has it, King Biswanath Dev, the learned ruler of the place, was issueless. On the advice of an astrologer, he shifted his capital from Nandapur to Jeypore and later, from Jeypore to Rayagada. His family Goddess, Narayani worshipped at the central place of Rayagada, is called Ma Majhighariani.

The legend continues that soon after the death of the King, all queens jumped into the funeral pyre. As there was no legal heir, the kingdom became ruined. There was nobody to look after the *nitis* of Ma Majhighariani.

In the year 1930, Government decided to construct the railway line from

Vijayanagaram to Raipur. One bridge was required to be constructed over the river, Jhanjabati. In spite of all the efforts of skilled engineers, the bridge could not be built. It was washed away by the water of the river. It is said that Goddess Maa Majhigharini directed the contractor in a dream to built one room for her. Accordingly, the contractor traced out Goddess under a Baruna tree and immediately constructed one room for her. Then the construction of the railway bridge could be completed without any disturbance. From that day, the miracle of the Goddess spread in the locality.



Ma Majhighariani

Three swords are kept near the Goddess. The first sword is worshipped at the time of Dasahara, the second one at the time Thakurani Jatras and the third on the day of *trayodashi*, *chaturdashi* and *purnima* in the month of Bhadrav. The villagers move from village to village, so that there would be no natural calamity or epidemic in that area. Goddess Majhighariani is held in high esteem

by the people of Rayagada, as Goddess Tarini in Ghatagaon and Goddess Samalai in Sambalpur. Hundreds of devotees of nearby villages visit the temple, particularly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays. People worship the Goddess for the fulfilment of their desires. They offer cocks and goats to the goddess. The alter for sacrifice is still there in the temple complex. Goddess is offered *bilwa* leaves and hibiscus flowers. Tribal people keep a small stone near the Janapadar in the name of Goddess. The Goddess is a stone idol, who is worshipped with her seven sisters. She is covered with vermillion, sandalwood paste, flower and agarbatis. On Mahastami, all these things are washed from the body and she is once again adorned with new sandalwood, vermillion, etc.

The temple opens, early in the morning and is closed at 9 P.M. regularly. *Arati* is performed 4 times every day i.e, 5 A.M., 9 A.M., 12.30 P.M. and 6.30 P.M. At the time of *Sandhya Arati*, local devotees gather there. It continues for more than one hour. It may be mentioned here that one brass horse weighing about 5 quintals has been placed in front of the *vijestali* of the Goddess. The 7 day long festival in the month of Chaitra attracts a large crowd. Thousands of devotees witness the festival; the different *nitis* continue till midnight.

The Goddess is worshipped by servitors, who belong to Khandayat caste. In due course, a beautiful temple has been constructed in place of the thatched house. A Managing Trust has also been constituted in the year 1985 to look after the *nitis* of Goddess and developmental work in the temple complex.

One *hundi* has been kept in the premises of the temple for collection of donations and that is the main source of income of the temple. As this place is close to Andhra Pradesh, most of the systems are close to the systems prevalent in the south. There is queue system in the temple. After the Managing Trust took over the developmental work of the temple, the premises have developed a lot and the funds have increased.

The place attracts visitors. The waterfall of Chatikona, Nilakantheswar on Debagiri hill in K.Singpur, Minajhola, Hatipathar near Nagabali river bank, the art and sculpture of Boudhadharan on Jagamunda hill of Padmapur are enchanting. This place has the potential of a tourist spot.

N.N. Nayak is DIPRO, Angul.

ARJUN AWARD FOR DILIP TIRKEY

Captain of the Indian hockey team, Shri Dilip Tirkey has been selected for the prestigious Arjun Award for the year, 2001. This young man of Orissa has reached the pinnacle of glory through determination and hard work. Hon'ble Minister, Housing, Sports and Youth Services, Shri Ranendra Pratap Swain has congratulated Shri Tirkey for winning the award.



Shri Tirkey

Footprints of Buddhism at Khiching

Balabhadra Ghadai

Orissa is rich in Buddhist sites and many of them are yet to be excavated. Dr Debala Mitra points out, "A large part of the rich Buddhist heritage is still lying underground and would form, when unearthed, a substantial part of Buddhist heritage of India." Undoubtedly, Buddhism had its sway in Orissa even from the pre-Ashokan period to the 10th-11th century A.D. During this period, Buddhist art and architecture in Orissa did not lag behind. The footprints of Buddhism are found on *stupas*, statues, monastic institutions, etc.

Modern Khiching (Khijjinga kotta), once the royal capital of Mayurbhanj, is located at a distance of 44 kms from Keonjhar town and 150 kms. from Baripada, the headquarters of Mayurbhanj district.

Khiching has a glorious past and its antiquities can be traced to the time the Maurya rule in India. When Ashoka the Great led his army against Kalinga, the Khijjinga (Khiching) region was very likely a part of Kalinga territory. The defeat of Kalinga resulted in the annexation of that territory to the Maurya empire, and consequently, the Khijjinga area must have formed a part of the empire. The evidence of Buddhism in Kalinga prior to the reign of Ashoka is found in the Ceylonese Buddhist work, *Datha Vamsa*, where it has

been mentioned that the kings and the people of Kalinga worshipped the tooth relic of the Buddha, enshrined in a *stupa*. Soon after the Kalinga war, Ashoka became a Buddhist and started propagating Buddhism. He firmly believed that it was through Buddhism that the uplift of the spiritual and moral conduct of the people could be achieved. According to the Buddhist scripture, *Mahaparinirvana Suttanta* of Digha Nikaya, Kalinga was among a few States to receive a tooth relic of the Buddha after the latter's *Mahaparinirvana* at Kusinagara.

The *Vinaya Pitaka* and the *Jatakas* mention that Tapassu and Bhallika, two merchant brothers of Utkala *janapada*, while going on trade to the middle country saw Buddha in the Urubela Forest and first gave him the food after his enlightenment. These two brothers were said to be the first converts to Buddhism. Utkala along with Mayurbhanj tracts formed part of Kalinga under Ashoka as well as under Kharavela.

The museum at Khiching is the store house of sculptural remains, copper plate grants, stone inscriptions, terracotta, numismatics and other antiquities retrieved through excavation. They throw light on the dynastic history of the Bhanjas. The Bhanjas

of Khijjinga Kotta were devotees of Lord Shiva but they did not confine their devotion only to one member of the Hindu pantheon and were also worshippers of the Shakti and various other Hindu deities. It is interesting to note that there are also a large number of Buddhist and Jain sculptures collected from Khijjinga (Khiching) and preserved in the site museum, which clearly prove that Buddhism and Jainism were flourishing during this period and the Bhanja Kings were magnanimous to extend their patronage to the votaries of those religions. In the site museum at Khiching, there are images of Tara, Buddha in *Bhumisparsamudra*, Manjusri in *Sukhasana* and Dhyani Buddha with *Dharma Chakra Mudra*, which have been collected from the site.

That the Bhanja Kings of Khijjinga Kotta (Khiching) also patronised Buddhism is evident from the discovery of Buddhist monuments and images in their kingdom. The mound at the site of Itamundia still hides the remains of a brick temple. Early in 1908, late Kamakshya Prasad Bose, the then S.D.O. of Panchpir, found here an inscribed image of Marichi and a small inscribed image of Avalokitesvara and dug out a big image of Buddha in the earth touching attitude. The inscription in the pedestal of Avalokitesvara is of great significance from archaeological point of view.

It reads :

Ragnyasri Rayabhanjasya Lokesha Bhagabanayah
Sri Dharani Barahena Sahakirttya Binirmithah.

The ruler, Rayabhanja is identified with Rajabhanja of the Bamanghaty copper plate. Rayabhanja (Rajabhanja), a devout Saiva,

patronised Buddhism in his kingdom. He allowed Dharani Baraha and his wife, Kirtti to instal the image of Avalokitesvara in the shrine of Khijjingakotta (Khiching). Dr N.K. Sahu points out that the characters of the inscription cannot be placed earlier than the 11th century A.D. and they are similar to those of copper plate grants of Rajabhanja found at Bamanghaty.

Another important image of Khiching preserved in Baripada museum is that of Aparchana Manjusri. One of the outstanding specimens of iconography of Khijjinga is that of the colossal Buddha image in *Bhumisparsa mudra* now preserved in the local museum. Dr N.K. Sahu is of the opinion that this image is "both in its size and workmanship, one of the most remarkable among antiquities of Khiching."

A good many specimens of Buddha figures have been discovered at the site and preserved in the local museum. There are also a few damaged images of Buddha in the *Bhumi sparsha mudra* in this museum. The noteworthy image of Khiching is that of Tara seated in *lalitasana*, on a lotus throne. This popular goddess used to command great respect among the Tantric Buddhists in mediaeval Khijjinga.

Thus, it can be aptly concluded that although Khiching is a centre of heterodox faiths, existence of Buddhism in the mediaeval age, was quite certain and the echoes of Buddhism can be heard even today.

Balabhadra Ghadai is Principal of M.K. College, Khiching, Mayurbhanj - 757039.

Sustainability of Fisheries in Orissa

Rabindra Kumar Behuria

"Sustainable development is the management and conservation of natural resource base and the orientation of technological and institutional change. Such development conserves land, water, plant and genetic resources, is environmentally non-degrading, technologically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable." (F.A.O., 1991). The objective of the paper is to focus our attention on the major threats to sustainability of fisheries in Orissa and to examine the efficacy of some of the solutions offered by specialists and international organisations.

Genesis

Fishing industry is one of the major natural resource industries of the country. It produced an annual fish output of about 5.26 million tonnes in 1998-99 of which 2.7 million tonnes were marine and 2.56 million tonnes inland. Its contribution to the GDP of the country at factor cost was Rs.19,555/- crore at prevailing prices during 1998-99. The quantity of marine products exported from the country during 2000-01 was 4.40 lakh tonnes valued at Rs.6443.89 cr. This industry besides providing cheap protein to the population, provides employment to a large section of the population in coastal as well as interior

regions. The employment provided by the industry in the processing, marketing and ancillary sectors are also significant. The sustained operation of the industry is vital for ensuring its contribution to the national economy, particularly to food supply, employment, earnings, foreign exchange earnings, regional development, public revenue, recreation, etc.

Fisheries : Orissa Scenario

The 480 km long coastline with continental shelf of 32, 279 sq.kms constitute the base of marine fishery resources of Orissa. The coastline spreads over six coastal districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Ganjam. The sea of Orissa coast is highly fertile ground for prawn and hilsa fisheries. The commercially most important prawn species such as *P.Mondon* (Tiger prawn) and *P. Indicus* (white prawn) are abundantly available in Orissa coast.

Prawn culture in Orissa has become a very profitable business. Culture of tiger prawn has been very popular. Several hatcheries of fish ponds have come up in the coastal areas in the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Ganjam. The farmers of Bhogarai, Baliapal, Basudevapur, Chandbali, Ali, Kanika.

Bhitarkanika, Dhamara, Rajanagar, Kendrapara, Machhagaon, Brahmagiri, Chilika and Huma areas have taken up this cultivation. Many qualified technical and non-technical enthusiasts have also taken this up profession. The low land rice and flood-affected saline areas are now converted to prawn culture tanks/fields. They get saline water by natural flow/ingression or pumping.

Shrimp farming in Orissa is gaining momentum. The State with 2.65% of total brackish water resources of the country contributes 8.69% of the total national shrimp production against 39.17% in Andhra Pradesh. The average yield of cultured shrimps in Orissa is 683 kg. against the national average of 767 kg. The Orissa Remote Sensing Application Centre (ORSAC) has surveyed the coastal shrimp project at Jagatjore (Kendrapara district) in 2,479 ha. area in 1993. In this area 23 species of fish, nine species of prawns, some species of crabs, mollusca, benthic fauna and 200 plank tons have been recorded. Such areas are high potential areas of shrimp production.

The Brackishwater Fisheries Development Agencies (B.F.D.As) have shown that Orissa with 32,586, 85 ha feasible prawn culture areas shares 2.7 percent of the total brackish water area of India, which stands at 11,90,900 ha such water bodies suitable for both capture and culture fishery of the State area available in the form of lakes, tidal mudflats, mangrove swamps, brack waters, saline waters, saline agricultural fields, salt pans and other low lying areas along the coastal belts. It is observed that the area actually utilised for prawn culture is only 9439,58 ha which is about 29 percent of the feasible areas. It means 71 percent of the feasible area is still

left unused in the State. Bhadrak district stands at bottom with only 8.3% utilisation of its feasible area.

In the non-marine districts, fresh water resources alone contribute to fish production whereas the maritime districts have both fresh and brackish water resources, besides the marine resources. Apart from many common and well known fish species like 'Catle' Calbasu, Rohu and Mrigals, the *Macrobrachium rosenbergii* and *Macrobrachium Malcolmsonii* are the two giant fresh water prawns known throughout the world. Considering the potential of fresh water fish estimated at 3,07,282 mt. in 1996-97 is 41 percent of potential. Similarly the potential of fresh water prawn resources has been estimated at 35,726 mt while the production in 1996-97 is only 178 mt. which is only 0.5% of the potential.

The total marine fish production of the State has increased from 53.581 tonnes in 1985-86 to 1,33,426 tonnes in 1996-97 (149% increase) and in value terms, the increase is from Rs.408.5 million to Rs.2499.9 million during the same period recording a rise of 511.5 percent. The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has estimated that the level of marine fish exploitation in Orissa is 47 percent of its potential.

Threats

Three major threats to the sustainability of fisheries in Orissa may be pointed out. They are :

- (a) Environmental or ecological
- (b) Economic
- (c) Social and Cultural

These primarily relate to the damage to the ecology caused by human intervention

such as trawling, dynamitising, poisoning, etc, both in marine and inland waters. The overfishing problem was reported to be acute in the shrimp fisheries. Another major ecological threat to fisheries in India is caused by water pollution both in the coastal and land environment. Fish diseases causing mass mortality of fish is also now a major threat to the sustainability of Indian Fisheries. Loss of biodiversity is also eating into the vitality of Indian fisheries. Intensive aquaculture is also responsible for causing serious problem to the sustainability of Indian fisheries.

The major economic threat to the sustainability of Indian fisheries is the problem of over-capitalisation in the catching and processing branches of the Industry. Over capitalisation in the industry is believed to have affected the private profitability of the industry.

One major social threat to the survival of the industry is the growing intra-use and inter-use conflicts between fishermen and other users of the natural resource base. Sometimes intra-use conflicts between traditional fishermen and mechanised boat operators occur. Inter-use conflicts in the industry are also not uncommon, with the acquisition of water areas for power production, tourism and other projects.

Standard Prescription for Sustainability

Standard prescriptions for the sustainability of Indian fisheries may be grouped into four categories. These are :

- (a) Economic Solutions
- (b) Institutional Solutions
- (c) Ecological Solutions
- (d) Technological Solutions

An economic solution for overcoming the overcapitalisation problem is disinvestment

by the Public Sector. In the past, the major Public Sector participation in the fishing industry outside infrastructure development was in the provision of capital inputs (loans) and subsidy to the catching, processing and marketing units. Removal of these facilities to the enterprises is believed to help in weeding out inefficient units and to make the operation of the industry optimum (FAO, 1984). This is also expected to offer a level playing ground to Indian and foreign enterprises, leading to optimum allocation of resources on a global scale.

One major institutional solution suggested for making the Indian fishing industry sustainable is the introduction of private property rights' over the natural resource base, both in marine and inland waters. Such a programme of privatisation is believed to promote proper allocation of resources and management of natural resources by owners. It is said to promote maximum benefit to the industry.

Habitat protection is the most important component of this solution. In view of the multiple uses of the resource base, a participatory approach to management is also prescribed. Integrated coastal zone management involving large marine eco-systems (LME) or marine catchment basins (MCB) on a regional or national basis is also suggested.

The technological solutions sought are expected to minimise the cost and damage to the industry. One frequently suggested solution is the adoption of low energy fishing techniques. Stock enhancement programmes involving artificial breeding, stocking, habitat development, etc are also suggested.

Conclusion

In the prevailing circumstances, the option for fisheries management in India is to continue with the 'Precautionary Approach', which has been followed in the past. It would also be advisable for it to be doubly cautious of the consequences of attempting the economic and institutional solutions prescribed by international organisations. Finally, it also demands on the part of the people, an approach, which is more conserving and less competitive in nature.

Select Bibliography

1. Choudhury, L.K. "Status of Fisheries in Orissa : An Overview" *Orissa Economics Association Souvenir*, Bhadrak College, Bhadrak, 23rd and 24th Feb'2002, pp. 27-29.

2. Korakandy, R. "Sustainability of Indian Fisheries" *Seafood Export Journal*. Vol. XXXIII, No.1, Cochin, January 2002 pp. 23-27.
3. Lenka, D. *Agriculture in Orissa*. Ludhiana; Kalyani, 2001. P. 428-29.

Acknowledgement :

D. Mishra, Ex-Member, Marine Products and Export Development Authority of India.

Rabindra Kumar Behuria is Lecturer, Department of Library and Inf. Sc., Chandbali College, Chandbali, Bhadrak - 756 133.

SADBHAVANA DIVAS



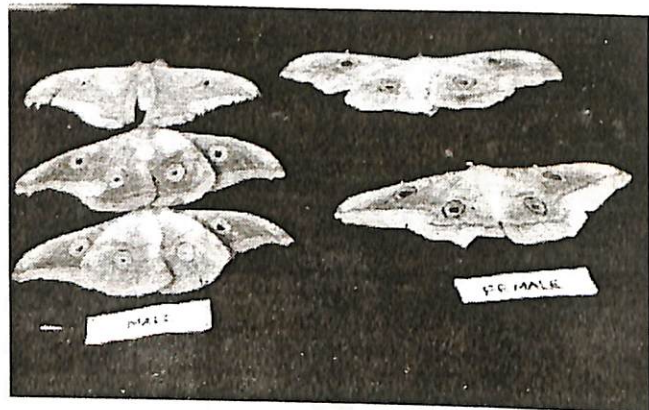
Hon'ble Minister, P.R., Inf. & P.R. and Culture, Dr Damodar Rout administering Sadbhavana oath to Hon'ble Minister, Health & F.W., Shri Prafulla Chandra Ghadei, Shri Umesh Chandra Swain, MLA, Editor, The Samaj, Smt. Manorama Mohapatra, Secretary, Inf. & P.R., Shri J.P. Dash, Director, Shri Sarbeswar Mohanty and others present at Soochana Bhavan on August 20, 2002.

Silk Culture and Sustainable Development in Orissa

Prafulla Kumar Mohanty

Introduction

Silk garments are a symbol of aristocracy. The natural silk is obtained from the salivary secretion of silk insects. There are four important commercial varieties of silk such as mulberry, eri, muga and tasar. Of all these varieties, tasar is known as wild silk, whereas the rest are of domesticated type. India is proud of having all these varieties of silk production.



Tasar Silkmoth

Wild silk culture is mainly carried out in the forest area, where sufficient host plants for the silk insect larvae are grown. Orissa occupies the second position in tasar silk production in India. For successful production of silk, suitable forest grown area is desirable.

Forest Scenario in Orissa

Forests play a vital role in regulating environmental stability. They provide

protection to ecological balance and reduce the impact of natural calamities like droughts, floods and cyclones. Forests are also an important source of livelihood for the weaker sections of society in general and the tribals in particular. In addition to this, forests provide a wide variety of products of commercial value such as timber, lac, resins, oil seeds, kendu leaves and medicinal plants. However, forest cover is dwindling at a fast pace. Several factors, including rising population, increasing need for fuel wood, timber and increasing industrialization and urbanization have contributed to large scale deforestation.

During 1981, the area under forest cover was 59,693 sq km, which accounted for 38 percent of the State's geographical area (1,55,707 sq km) and 8% of the country's forest area. By December 1997, the total forest area of the State is reported to have declined to about 58135.47 sq km, which is 37.3% of the geographical area of the State. Districtwise figures of different categories of forest area are given in Table 1. According to the State Forest Report, 1999 the actual forest cover in Orissa is only 47,033 sqkm (30.2% of the total geographical area) (Table 2). The National Forest Policy, 1988 has mandated that 33% of the geographical area should be under forest

cover with 60% coverage in hilly tracts and 20% in plains. Against this, the State has 30.2% forest cover as compared to 19.4% at the national level.

Protection of Forest and Plantation

The forest cover is gradually declining, mainly because of anthropogenic activities and population explosion. Furthermore, forest area is also being diverted to non-forest use, which is also another prime cause of deterioration (Tables 3 and 4). Keeping in view the declining trend of the forest cover, new strategies have been formulated by the Government. The main thrust in the forestry sector is on afforestation of waste forest lands and restoration of degraded forest (Table 5). Several important afforestation schemes, for example, Economic Plantation, Area Oriented Fuel Wood and Fodder Project, Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants. Integrated Afforestation and Eco-development projects, River Valley

Projects and Development of City forests and afforestation in KBK (Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput) districts are being adopted by the Government.

Forest Fire : A Menace

In order to prevent fast depletion of forest resources and to enhance ecological stability, plantation programmes have been undertaken in degraded forests and waste lands under various State and Central Plan Schemes. Forest fire is another cause of the degradation, which is relatively a common natural and human induced occurrence. Depending upon the nature and size, forest fire, can be grouped into four major types, i.e., (i) surface, (ii) ground, (iii) crown and (iv) firestorms. Three components, i.e., oxygen, fuel and heat are causative factors for a forest fire to start. Approximately 90% of forest fires are started by humans and various natural processes such as lightning or the heat generated by the sun in summer account for the remaining 10%.

Table - 1

District-wise classification of forest area in Orissa, 2000-01 (Area in sqkm)

Sl. No.	District	Geographical Area	Total Forest area	Forest land under control of Forest Department		Forest land under control of Revenue Department		
				Reserve Forest	Unclassified Forest	Demarcated Protected	Undemarcated Forest	Other forest under Revenue Department
1.	Angul	6232	2716.82	1760.76	1.15	273.21	11.99	669.71
2.	Balasore	3634	332.21	202.69	0.19	21.54	-	107.79
3.	Baragarh	5834	1216.13	583.52	0.13	451.19	-	181.29
4.	Bhadrak	2677	97.07	-	0.01	3.96	3298	60.12
5.	Bolangir	6569	1543.85	1105.68	0.14	3.63	-	434.40
6.	Boudh	3444	1277.17	983.33	1.02	43.48	-	249.34
7.	Cuttack	3733	787.90	522.39	0.45	101.11	-	163.65
8.	Deogarh	2784	1560.22	578.40	0.04	243.86	-	737.92
9.	Dhenkanal	4595	1737.62	1141.02	0.04	13.78	-	582.78
10.	Gajapati	3850	2468.98	416.89	0.13	108.15	1149.41	794.40

11.	Ganjam	8706	3149.90	1485.69	0.86	143.54	1167.39	352.45
12.	Jagatsinghpur	1973	132.92	1.23	0.02	4.77	83.06	43.84
13.	Jajpur	2888	725.27	6.35	0.01	299.32	-	419.50
14.	Jharsuguda	2200	202.44	35.53	0.04	109.97	-	56.90
15.	Kalahandi	8364	2538.01	1449.03	0.54	488.51	313.37	286.56
16.	Kendrapara	2548	248.05	14.49	4.50	127.57	62.32	39.17
17.	Keonjhar	8303	3097.18	1834.09	0.26	273.64	220.79	768.40
18.	Khurda	2889	618.67	298.81	0.68	209.87	-	109.31
19.	Koraput	7897	1879.53	478.86	0.68	284.58	-	415.41
20.	Malkangiri	6190	3355.88	352.44	0.30	940.61	661.92	1400.61
21.	Mayurbhanj	10418	4392.13	3330.14	2.20	245.06	-	814.73
22.	Nawapara	3408	1849.69	-	0.44	1504.00	-	345.25
23.	Nayagarh	4242	2080.97	1301.99	0.25	188.03	135.58	455.12
24.	Nawarangpur	5294	2462.73	535.34	0.07	685.77	-	1241.55
25.	Phulbani	7650	5709.83	2010.06	2.00	1783.30	-	1914.47
26.	Puri	3051	137.10	15.66	0.51	85.88	-	35.05
27.	Rayagada	7580	2812.33	771.62	0.96	1147.19	-	892.56
28.	Sambalpur	6698	3631.77	2151.71	1.18	363.01	-	1115.87
29.	Sonepur	2344	415.78	309.52	0.03	-	-	106.23
30.	Sundargarh	9712	4957.32	2651.88	1.72	836.85	-	1466.87
Orissa		155707	58135.47	26329.12	20.55	11685.68	3838.78	16261.34

Source : Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Orissa, Bhubaneswar.

Table - 2

Nature of Forest cover in Orissa

Sl.No.	Nature of forest cover	Area (In sq.km)
1.	Dense forest with crown, density of above 40 per cent	26,073
2.	Open forest with crown density of 10 to 40 per cent	20,745
3.	Mangrove forest	215
Total		47,033

Sources : (i) Forest Survey of India

(ii) Economic Survey, 2001-2002, Government of Orissa, Bhubaneswar

Table 3

Forest area diverted to non-forest use in Orissa since inception up to 1.6.2002

Sl.No.	Year	Number of Projects	Area diverted to non-forest use (in hectare)
1.	1982	1	3.43
2.	1983	4	124.02
3.	1984	18	2000.89
4.	1985	5	517.38
5.	1986	3	770.08
6.	1987	5	952.90
7.	1988	9	975.63

8.	1989	13	1737.38
9.	1990	24	2714.92
10.	1991	5	3.17
11.	1992	7	508.84
12.	1993	8	4729.25
13.	1994	3	788.92
14.	1995	6	317.94
15.	1996	12	1354.61
16.	1997	14	1902.49
17.	1998 }	53	4722.35
	1991 }		
18.	2000-2001	27	1219.06
Total (as on 01.06.2001)		217	25,343.26

Source : Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Orissa, Bhubaneswar.

Table - 4

Forest area diverted to non-forest use in Orissa (sector wise as on 1.6.2001)

Sl.No.	Name of the Sector	Proposals finally approved by Govt. India	
		Number of Proposals	Forest area diverted (in hectare)
1.	Irrigation	51	5739.9779
2.	Industries	4	2403.0860
3.	Mining (i) OMC Ltd (ii) MCL (iii) Directorate, Mining	74	8228.9336
4.	Transmission line	37	2488.7098
5.	Roads and Bridges	21	221.8290
6.	Railway Line	4	1909.9490
7.	Defence	4	3865.2500
8.	Miscellaneous	19	163.4327
9.	Human Habitation	3	322.0860
Total		217	25,343.2600

Source : Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Orissa, Bhubaneswar.



Tasar Cocoons



Host Plants

Table - 5

Plantation by different wings of Forest Department, Orissa

Sl. No.	Activity (Unit)	Name of the organisation	Achievement during the year				
			1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Block Plantation (ha)	Territorial	2,440.29	8,852.80	6,340.80	30,883.60	15,389.96
		SFP	384.00	1,554.91	680.50	398.00	2,607.00
		OFDC	13,074.14	159.12	309.25	374.04	134.53
		Total	15,898.43	10,566.83	7,330.55	31,655.64	18,131.49
2.	Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest, (ha)	Territorial	2,643.91	5,659.00	8,409.17	18,857.36	26,115.00
		SFP	-	1,734.00	1,251.00	-	5,000.00
		OFDC	60.00	-	-	-	-
		Total	2,703.91	7,393.00	9,660.17	18,857.36	31,115.00
3.	Farm Forestry (seedlings Distributed in lakh)	Territorial	-	128.16	325.63	325.63	-
		SFP	151.41	23.73	3.36	-	327.14
		OFDC	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	151.41	151.89	8.67	325.63	327.14
4.	Avenue Plantation (Rkm)	Territorial	-	351.30	533.17	43.93	80.04
		SFP	-	113.65	148.15	97.66	132.00
		OFDC	131.41	22.20	34.29	50.24	4.00
		Total	131.41	487.15	715.61	191.83	216.04

Territorial - Territorial Wing of Forest Department
 SFP - Social Forestry Project
 OFDC - Orissa Forest Development Corporation

Source : (i) Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF), Orissa, Bhubaneswar
 (ii) Directorate of Social Forestry, Orissa, Bhubaneswar
 (iii) Orissa Forest Development Corporation (OFDC), Bhubaneswar.
 (iv) Economic Survey 2001-2002, Government of Orissa.

Problems of Forest Fire

The main damages by forest fire may be enlisted as follows : (i) Damage to valuable forest produce especially timber and other minor forest produces; (ii) Loss of natural biodiversity of a region; (iii) Loss to wildlife and its habitat; (iv) Loss in forest covers; (v) Damage to natural regeneration in the form of seedlings; (vi) Environmental degradation

due to loss of carbon sink resource and increase in percentage of carbon dioxide in atmosphere; (vii) Global warming; (viii) Sudden change in microclimate and making environment unsuitable for living organisms; (ix) Damaging soil fertility making it more prone to soil erosion; (x) Depletion of ozone layer and thus making life unhealthy; (xi) Heavy smoke causing breathing problem and other related

diseases; (xii) Loss in agricultural production due to soil erosion and change in climate; (xiii) Loss of livelihood resources for the people depending on forests.

Measures Suggested

The total geographical area of India is around 328.7 million hectares out of which, as per an estimate of the Forest Survey of India, the total forest cover is 76.50 million hectares. Though the forest area of the country is around 23.4 percent, in reality, the forest exists only on 19.27 per cent of the geographical area. As per records, the country's forests have 45,000 species of plants (12% of the global plant wealth) and 65,000 species of animals. Despite its richness in variety of fauna and flora, the forest cover of India is very less when compared to its population. As such, the country's forest has to meet the need of 16 per cent of the world population with its meagre one per cent of total world forest cover. India's National Forest Policy (1998) presents a visionary strategy for forest conservation and management and lays emphasis on protection of forest against encroachment, fire and grazing. However, proper development of the forest having timber trees like asan, arjun, sal, etc. would provide a congenial atmosphere for the growth of tasar silk production. To protect and preserve this precious tropical wild tasar silk species, special emphasis may be laid on research, training and development in this silk

sector on preserving the species, good quantum of tasar cocoons may be obtained.

Wild Silk, Forest and Future

Orissa is unique for wild tasar silk, which can only be possible by the tasar host plants. Tasar forest is an integral part of tasar silk culture. Rearing of tasar silkworm and tasar food plants are just two sides of a coin. Since tasar biodiversity includes both tasar flora and fauna, tasar jungle is to be protected to preserve the precious wild tasar silkworm species. Further, tropical tasar silk culture is one of the best ways for sustainable use of the forest and sustainable development of the tribal rearers of the State. Tasar culture preserves the ecological balance and enhances the tribal and State economy. Therefore, care should be taken to preserve tasar forest and brighten the future of tropical wild tasar silk species.

Suggested Reading

Alternative Economic Survey 2000-2001. Second Generation Reforms : Delusion of Development Alternative Survey Group. Delhi : Rainbow Publishers Limited, pp.1-211.

Human Development Report 2000. New Delhi : Oxford University Press, pp.1-290

Mohanty, P.K. (1998). *Tropical Tasar Culture in India*. New Delhi : Daya Publishing House, pp.1-153.

Prafulla Kumar Mohanty is Reader in Zoology, Utkal University, Bhubaneswar-751004

ORISSA SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS

Orissa Sahitya Akademi Awards for the year 2000 have been announced. The winners in different categories are Shri Radhamohan Mohapatra (novel : *Bhumitrushna*), Dr Archana Nayak (collection of short stories : *Shramanara Pruthivi*), Shri Sadasib Das (poetry : *Premika Premika*), Shri Manmath Satapathy (play : *Mu Chakara Kahuchi*), Dr Jayanta Kumar Biswal (essay and criticism : *Digbalayara Epakhare*), Shri Aurobindo Behera (translation : *Mu Rigoberta Menchu*), and Shri Batakrushna Swain (children's literature : *Chuni Chuni Suna Phula*). Each award carries a citation and Rs.10,000/- in cash.

New Railway Zones to Enhance Efficiency

PIB Feature

I.I.M.S. Rana

Indian Railways, the largest rail network in the world under single management, is spread across the length and breadth of the country comprise of about 62,000 route kms and run about 14,500 trains (both passenger and goods). Railways carry 13 million passengers and 1.4 million tons of freight traffic every day. This mammoth organization is headed by Railway Board, a policy making body which also plans investments. The Board also performs executive functions for running of the Railways and coordination among different zones. Railways are presently divided into nine Zones and 59 Divisions since it is not possible to manage such a vast network as a single unit.

Divisions are the field units, for running of the Railway system and trains. Divisions are responsible for maintenance of infrastructure and running of trains on a real time, day to day basis. Each Division has a control office which functions round the clock. Control office issues directions to Station Masters to give permission to trains to proceed.

A group of Divisions is known as a Zone and is headed by a General Manager. Zonal Headquarter offices function as administrative office for the group of Divisions and provide technical and administrative

support to the Divisions, perform co-ordination amongst divisions, adjoining Zonal Railways, liaison with State governments, Trade, Industry, etc. It initiates and implements projects sanctioned by Board. General Managers, along with the Principal Heads of various disciplines inspect Railway establishments and routes, provide guidance to Divisions. The Zonal Headquarters also keeps liaison with major customers and public representatives and solve problems of Divisions.

Staff strength of some of the Zones is more than 2 lakh, including field staff of Divisions, Extra Divisional offices and Zonal headquarter office. Route kms. of some Zones is as high as 10,000 kms. In some Zones, it takes more than 24 hours to reach end point and around turn over is over Rs.7,000 crore.

In order to improve efficiency and productivity of Railways, subject of reducing size of zones, has been receiving attention for more than two decades. Reason being, that size of majority of zones has been considered to be too large for being managed efficiently. In the year 1981, a High Powered Committee, known as Railway Reforms Committee, was formed to go into various aspects of Railway working, in order to improve Efficiency and Productivity

of Railways. One of the terms of reference, of the Committee, was to examine re-grouping of Railways. The Committee was headed by S/ Shri H.C. Sarin, Retired ICS; V.P.Sawhney, Ex. Member Railway Board; M.Satyapal, Seretary, Technical Development, Government of India; Russi Modi, Vice-President and Managing Director/TISCO; and Justice H.C.P.Tripathi, Retired Judge, Allahabad High Court.

The Committee appointed a number of Working Groups for each subject. The Working Group, on the regrouping of Zones, was headed by the former Chairman, Railway Board, Shri M.N. Bery. Other members were Shri M.Q.Dalvi UNDP Consultant Planning Commission, Shri K.L. Harida, Professor Indian Institute of Public Administration, Shri K.D.Madan, Former Addl. Secretary, Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Shri Prakash Narain, Advisor, Transport Planning Commission and later Chairman Railway Board, and Shri Udai Pareek from IIM/Ahmedabad.

After examining the subject in detail scientifically and after conducting number of Studies for almost 2 years, the Committee remarked, "It is easy to appreciate that the issue is vital, as efficiency and productivity are affected adversely by unmanageable and loose-limbed units of management, whereas these are ceteris paribus expected to improve when the management units are compact, business-like and administratively manageable." it recommended creation of four additional Zones.

Railways accepted Committee's recommendations. Committee also predicted with calculations of Railways' future workloads, that, by the year 2000 few more

zones may be required. The new Zones could not be set up till 1996 due to financial constraints.

It is a paradox that while additional zones were to improve efficiency and productivity and consequently improve its finances, yet zones were delayed because of finances. In the year 1996-98, it was decided by the Government to set up seven new zones.

The traffic carried by Railways in 1966, when the last zone was created, was 160 million tons, in 1984 the traffic was 236 million tons and in 2002 traffic carried went upto 500 million tons.

Concern over creation of additional zones has been expressed by some persons, based on opinions, emotions and incorrect information. Financial burden, anticipated operational and co-ordination problem, change of need due to availability of IT, human problems and state orientation, are some of the reasons mentioned for such apprehensions.

The facts are that the anticipated cost of all the seven new zones is of the order of Rs 600 crore. This translates into an investment of about Rs 100 crore for each zone over next 5 to 6 years. Railways annual business is about Rs. 80,000 crore (Rs. 40,000 crore Earning and Rs. 40,000 crore Expenditure). Given the scale of Railway Operations, even a slight improvement in efficiency, is expected to yield rich dividends and far out-weigh the investments.

Indian Railways are constantly striving for improved performance in all fronts. During 2001-02, savings in Ordinary Working Expenses were Rs 1,487 crore compared to Budget Estimates. Operating Ratio improved

from 98.8 per cent (Budget Estimate) to 96 per cent (Actuals). Loan of Rs 249 crore to Capital Fund from General Exchequer taken in 2000-01 has been repaid with interest thereon.

With the changing socio political scenario aspirations, expectations and demand of people, continuous technological changes, management has become a complex, intricate, specialized multifaceted process. Managerial aspects like Human Resource development, utilizing their potential, Financial management, Inventories management, Resource management, Customer care, Quality of Service, Customer interface, Customer focus, need for organisation to be customer driven, interface with public representatives and so on, continue to be very vital aspects of management. Similarly with technological upgradation of Track, Rolling Stock, Electrification, Signaling and Telecommunications, process of co-ordination amongst various disciplines of Railway have become all the more complex and intricate.

New technologies have been adopted in almost every field of Railway working like improved Welding technologies, long welded Rail Tracks, Prestressed concrete sleepers with elastic fastenings, Mechanised maintenance of Tracks, Dieselisation, Electrification, Air Brake and other Rolling Stock Technologies etc.

There is a lot of scope for improving efficiency and productivity by carrying out more inspections, solving problems of the Divisions, interface with customers to find win-win solutions, speeding up process of decision making, for maintenance of assets and construction projects, quality of maintenance of assets leading to improved utilization of

assets, equipment, machine and enhance life of costly assets like Rails, Rolling Stock. Imagine what all these mean in financial terms. Hundreds of examples can be cited to bring home, as to what all these will mean for improving financial health of Railways and quality of service to customers, including safety.

The new zones are planned to be set up as a lean, thin, modern efficient offices with around 1,500 staff, optimizing the results through latest IT tools. It would be possible for the head of the organisation to devote quality time for Human Resource management and customer satisfaction as well as step up efforts for revenue maximization.

The revised jurisdictions have been made so as to provide smoother movement of traffic, better control and improve the efficiency of the system. Each Zonal Railway provides a support to the other Zonal Railway, thus forming an integrated chain. The apprehensions that Operations will be adversely affected are unfounded.

Apprehensions regarding increase in staff strength are without any basis. Indian Railways has been progressively rationalizing its staff strength for more than a decade. The staff strength has been reduced from a level of 1.65 million in 1990-91 to 1.54 million in 2001-02. Almost entire requirement of staff of new Zonal Headquarters is to be fulfilled through transfers of staff from existing zones. Staff requirement is contemplated to be reduced by adopting modern office management systems. The new offices are to be set up as model offices that can become an example to be copied and adopted by existing Zonal Headquarter offices.

The new zones have been created on the basis of workload, accessibility, geographical sprawl and other administrative/operational requirements and not on regional considerations. The proposed reorganization is not on the basis of State boundaries. Thus the importance of Indian Railways as a unifying factor is not going to be lost.

Most of the major decisions have positive as well as some negative aspects and are therefore always debatable. The right course of action is to take institutionalized decisions. What is meant by institutionalized decision is that such major decisions need to be taken on the basis of recommendations of experts, who have applied their minds and studied the issue in depth, rather than basing decisions on individual opinions.

In nutshell, the workload of Railway has gone up many folds, aspirations and

expectations of people have gone up, management has become much more complex and intricate, and competition is intense and cutthroat. In such circumstances what is required is more compact, more efficient zones, which can take on the challenges and competition facing Railway head on, so that General Managers can be in the driving seat with full control and dynamism, who can create synergy, rather than managing and struggling to manage to the best of their abilities.

There is no doubt that the existing zones are too large for efficient management of Railways and smaller zones will improve efficiency and productivity. Even an improvement of a fraction of one percent of efficiency, will make the decision for new zones very much worthwhile.

I.I.M.S. Rana is Chairman, Railway Board

PROMOTING ECO-TOURISM

Bhitara Kanika and Chilika have been identified as centres, which would be developed as centres of eco-tourism with financial assistance from Government of India. Tourism Department would prepare a master plan, which would be sent to the centre. The elephant sanctuary at Chandaka and the Bramhagiri islet in Chilika have been selected for development of eco-tourism this year. Orissa Eco-Tourism Task Force Committee under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment would supervise the work. Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Tourism, CCF (Wildlife), Chief Executive of Chilika Development Authority, and D.F.O(Wildlife) of Chilika and Chandka would be members of the Task Force, which would meet once every month. Steps would be taken to set up Tourism Cell and Eco-Tourism Fund in the Orissa Tourism Development Corporation. Tourism Department of the State would give Rs 2 lakh to the fund. Chilika Development Authority would donate a part of the Ramsar award and the money would be spent for the development of eco-tourism in the State.

These decisions were taken at a meeting held at the Secretariat on August 27, 2002. Hon'ble Minister for Energy, Science & Technology and Environment, Shri Surjya Narayan Patro presided over the meeting, which was attended by the Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment, Shri Goutama Buddha Mukharjee, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Tourism & Culture, Shri R. Balakrishnan, Director, Tourism, Shri Gopinath Mohanty, Joint Director of the Department, Shri Biranchi Mishra and other high ranking officers.

Advertisement Policy of the Government of India and Guidelines for Empanelment of Newspapers with DAVP

The Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity(DAVP) is the nodal agency of the Government of India for advertising by various Ministries and organisations of Government of India including public sector undertakings and autonomous bodies. The primary objective of the Government in advertising is to secure the widest possible coverage of the intended content or message through various newspapers and journals of current affairs which are published daily, weekly, fortnightly or monthly. In releasing advertisements to newspapers/journals the DAVP does not take into account the political affiliation or editorial policies of newspapers/journals. However, DAVP would avoid releasing advertisements to newspapers/journals, which incite or tend to incite communal passion, preach violence, offend the sovereignty and integrity of India or socially accepted norms of public decency and behaviour.

2. Government advertisements are not intended to be financial assistance to newspapers/journals. DAVP maintains a list of newspapers/journals approved for release of advertisements by empaneling acceptable newspapers/journals. DAVP will empanel only such newspapers/journals as are required for issuing advertisements of the Government of India. Care is taken to empanel newspapers/journals having readership from different sections of the society in different parts of the country.

Panel Advisory Committee

3. There is a Panel Advisory Committee(PAC) for considering applications of newspapers/journals for being empanelled for receiving Government advertisements. This Committee is headed by Director General, DAVP/Director, DAVP and it includes Addl. Principal Information Officer in the PIB, Press Registrar, RNI and Deputy Secretary/Under Secretary in the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting dealing with Print Media. The Committee will also have one representative each from the Association of big, medium and small newspapers. The recommendations of the Panel Advisory Committee as accepted by the DG/Director, DAVP regarding empanelment of a newspaper is usually final.

The PAC also has the power to consider de-empanelment of a newspaper/journal where warranted.

4. In pursuance of broad social objectives of the Government and for ensuring fairness among various categories of newspapers/journals, the PAC considers empanelment of newspapers/journals belonging to the following categories on priority :

- (a) Small and medium newspapers/journals
- (b) Language newspapers
- (c) Newspapers/journals published in backward, remote and border areas.

5. Newspapers/journals are classified into three categories, namely

- (i) Small, with a circulation of up to 25,000 copies per publishing day.
- (ii) Medium, between 25,001 and 75,000 copies per publishing day, and
- (iii) Big, with a circulation of above 75,000 copies per publishing day.

Criteria for Empanelment

6. All newspapers/journals seeking empanelment for the first time should have been uninterruptedly and regularly under publication for a period of not less than 12 months and should comply with the provisions of the Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867. Fresh applications for empanelment may be made any time during the year. However, each case will be considered once in a year only.

For renewal of rate contract, the newspapers are to submit applications in prescribed format by 31st May of the year to DAVP.

The details of the paper like size, language, periodicity, print area and details of printing press etc. as asked for in empanelment form may be given. Further it must be substantiated that the paper is being published at a reasonable standard. Reasonable standard, inter alia, means that

- (a) The print matter and photographs should be legible, neat, clear and without smudges, overwriting, and tampering.
- (b) There should be no repetition of news items or articles from other issues.
- (c) There should be no reproduction of news items or articles from other newspaper/journals without credit line.
- (d) Masthead on its front page should carry the title of the newspaper, place, date and day of publication; it should also carry RNI Registration Number, volume & issue number and price of newspaper/journal;
- (e) The newspaper should carry imprint line as required under PRB Act; and
- (f) Inner pages must carry page number, title of the paper and date of publication.

7. A daily newspaper should furnish issues for preceding four months and weeklies & fortnightlies must furnish issues of preceding six months and monthlies should furnish latest 12 months issues.

Regularity

8. The applicant should have published the newspaper on at least 25 days in each month during preceding 12 months. Weeklies should have published 46 issues during the preceding year, fortnightlies 24 issues and monthlies 10 issues during the preceding year to be considered being brought out regularly.

The applicant should also furnish a copy of the Certificate of Registration issued by the RNI in the name of the publisher.

9. Newspapers/journals having established circulation of more than 75,000 copies per publishing day, as certified by Audit Bureau of Circulation(ABC) can seek empanelment of their fresh edition from a new place without having any regular publication for preceding 12 months, but in such cases empanelment of fresh edition will be only in the lowest slab of circulation. New Editions of small and medium newspapers will also be empanelled similarly.

10. A newspaper/journal should have a minimum paid circulation of not less than 2000 copies for being considered eligible for empanelment. However, newspapers/journals in Sanskrit, newspapers/journals published in backward, border or remote areas or in tribal languages or those published in J&K need to have substantiated minimum paid circulation of only 500 copies per publishing day.

11. A newspaper/journal should have the following minimum print area :

Periodicity	Print area not less than
Dailies	1520 Std. Col. Cms.
Weeklies, Fortnightlies	700 Std. Col. Cms.
Monthlies	960 Std. Col. Cms.

Exceptions may, however, be made by PAC in the case of newspapers/journals belonging to the above mentioned category in Sanskrit etc.

12. The empanelment already granted by the DG/Director, DAVP earlier will remain valid for the duration for which empanelment has been made.

13. The applicant newspaper/journal should furnish authenticated figures of circulation of ABC, RNI or Chartered Accountant. However, Chartered Accountant Certificate will be accepted only up to 25,000 copies per publishing day for up to one year only.

DAVP will take average circulation for the preceding one year as certified by ABC, RNI failing which CA(whichever is less).

14. RNI circulation check will be valid for three years unless paper is suspended or declared unestablished by RNI. During this period paper seeking renewal of empanelment in the same slab need not furnish any fresh authentication of circulation. Rate renewal cases showing increase in circulation warranting higher slab of rate will need to furnish ABC/RNI circulation check certification. DG/Director, DAVP reserves the right to have figures of circulation checked through its representatives or through RNI where he/she may so decide.

In rate renewal/empanelment cases, where a three year contract is offered, publishers should submit to DAVP on or before 31st May each year an Affidavit to the effect that they have submitted Annual Return to RNI. In the affidavit the latest figures as certified by ABC/RNI/CA will also be indicated.

15. A newspaper if declared unestablished by RNI will be suspended from DAVP empanelment and recovery will be effected. Resumption will be considered only on receipt of the RNI certifying circulation.

A newspaper/journal once declared unestablished by RNI will be considered established only from the year RNI declares it established. The circulation certified by RNI/ABC if found lower than the claimed circulation will be taken into consideration for recovery.

Advertising Rate

16. The rate structure for payment against advertisements released by DAVP will be worked out on the basis of laid down principles. DAVP will work out advertisement rates as per the Government of India rate structure formula devised by the Rate Structure Committee. The rates will be related to circulation of a newspaper and will apply uniformly to all newspapers. The newspaper will enter into rate contract with DAVP accepting the DAVP rates and other terms and conditions as laid down from time to time to ensure publication of DAVP advertisements as and when issued to a newspaper.

Renewal of Rate Contract

17. Application for renewal must be submitted to DAVP, complete in all respects, by the due date, which would be the last day of May of the calendar year in which the empanelment expires failing which DAVP may not consider the newspaper for renewal of rate for the concerned year. DAVP will convey its decision on renewal by 30th September of the relevant year. DAVP will place the rate renewal application proforma on its Web site <http://www.nic.in/davp> and newspapers may download the proforma from internet to apply for renewal of rate contract of their newspaper. Alternately, newspapers may collect the application proforma from DAVP headquarters or from PIB offices in the country on their own, well in time. DAVP will make available the application proforma for rate renewal/fresh applications to associations of big, medium and small newspapers as recognised by the Press Council of India. Rate renewal contract will be awarded to newspapers for three years if circulation for previous year is supported by RNI or ABC. However, if any newspaper claims increase in circulation with latest RNI or ABC certificate, upward revision may be considered. The revision of rate (upward/downward) will be considered yearly.

Payment of Advertisement Bills

18. DAVP will release payment of advertisement bills in the name of the payee and at the address given by the newspaper in the application form for renewal of rate contract or fresh application for empanelment, as the case may be. No change in the payee's name or address will be entertained during the year of empanelment unless it is justified and found unavoidable or compelling.

19. Every newspaper will be obliged to send one copy of the newspaper on their own carrying DAVP advertisements, to the client at the address mentioned in the Release Order, failing which payment for the advertisement may not be considered.

20. Every newspaper will be obliged to submit its advertisement bills, complete in all respect, and supported with relevant documents, within 30 days of the publication of the advertisement. DAVP will make every effort to pay the advertisement bill within 60 days of receipt of bill.

21. No newspaper will publish DAVP advertisement without receipt of the relevant Release Order. Request for a duplicate Release Order by publications will be entertained on merits and on case to case basis.

22. The newspaper will be obliged to strictly adhere to the date of publication of DAVP advertisements as given in the Release Order. Publication of advertisement on dates other than that given in the Release Order will not be regularised with revalidation of Release Order and no payment will be made in such cases.

Suspension of Newspaper for DAVP Advertisements

23. A newspaper will stand suspended with immediate effect if found to have submitted wrong information in his application or rate renewal proforma; or if found to have discontinued its publication, changed its periodicity or its title or have become irregular or suspected to have been indulging in unethical or anti-national activities as found by the Press Council of India or if convicted by a court of law for such activities.

24. Before suspension of a newspaper for DAVP advertisements on grounds of unethical practices, anti-national activities, violation of the norms of decency as prescribed by the Press Council of India, such newspapers will be given due hearing by the DAVP and a final view will be taken by DAVP.

25. If a newspaper refuses to accept and carry an advertisement issued by DAVP on behalf of the Ministries/Departments of Government of India, public sector undertakings and autonomous bodies on persistent basis, the newspaper may be suspended for a period up to six months by DG/Director, DAVP.

Release of Advertisements

26. As soon as requisitions for release of advertisements are received from various Ministries and Departments as also from public sector undertakings and autonomous bodies, DAVP will prepare a suitable media list keeping in view the content, the target audience or the advertisement and availability of funds after consideration of the recommendations of the client.

27. DAVP will ensure availability of funds before the advertisements are released, especially in the case of paying clients. The Ministries and Departments, which are required to pay advance deposit for release of their advertisements, will be requested to do so by depositing the required funds as per extant orders of the Government in this regard.

Exceptions

28. Notwithstanding any of the provisions mentioned above, DG/Director, DAVP, as Chairman of the Panel Advisory Committee, will have discretion to grant provisional empanelment to a newspaper, subject to approval of the PAC, for a period of six months or till the next meeting of the PAC if the newspaper has completed all the formalities required for empanelment and otherwise found suitable for issue of Government advertisements.

Effective from 1st May, 2002

Procedure of Empanelment of Audio-Video Executive Producers

The process of empanelment of producers for Audio-Video productions starts with the issue of application forms. It is followed by scrutiny of applications. Incomplete applications are returned with a memo specifying the reasons for non-acceptance of the applications. Such applications can be resubmitted for consideration. This process is done according to a schedule of stipulated time frame.

As per established practice, with the approval of the DG:DAVP an internal committee is constituted to scrutinise and preview all applications and software submitted by the agencies and make recommendations regarding their suitability for empanelment. This committee serves as a recommendatory body and final decision is taken by the Panel Advisory Committee (PAC) which is the main body to decide empanelment of audio-video producers and ratification of rates for AV productions.

The PAC comprises members from Doordarshan, I&B Ministry, Films Division, All India Radio and DAVP. This meeting is chaired by DG:DAVP. PAC considers the following issues:

- Consideration of recommended applications for empanelment of video Executive Producers with DAVP.
- Consideration of recommended application for empanelment of audio executive producers with DAVP.
- Ratification of the recommendations of the costing committee on new rates for audio-video productions produced for DAVP.
- The PAC recommends empanelment of audio-video producers which is final and also ratifies the recommendations of the costing committee.
- The Panel Advisory Committee approves setting up of costing committee. The costing committee consists of the members of AIR, Doordarshan and DG, or JD, and FA&CAO, DAVP. The committee recommends the rates for the productions which are not mentioned in rate card. Panel Advisory committee fixes the rates for such audio-video productions.

DAVP

The Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP) is the nodal agency to undertake multi-media advertising and publicity for various Ministries and Departments of Government of India. Some of the Autonomous Bodies also route their advertisements through DAVP. As a service agency, it endeavours to communicate at grass roots level on behalf of various Central Government Ministries.

The origin of DAVP can be traced to the times of World War-II. Immediately after the outbreak of Second World War, the erstwhile government of India appointed a Chief Press Advisor. Besides other things, advertising was also the responsibility of the Chief Press Advisor. A post of Advertising Consultant was created in June 1941 under the Chief Press Advisor. This is where DAVP has its roots. On March 1, 1942, the Advertising Consultant Office became the Advertising Branch of the Department of Information & Broadcasting. Following the expansion in its scope, functions and activities, this Advertising unit was declared an Attached Office of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on October 1, 1955. The office also assumed the name of Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP). DAVP was further declared as Head of a Department on April 4, 1959. By virtue of this declaration, financial and administrative powers were delegated to DAVP.

DAVP has been working as a catalyst of social change and economic growth over the years. It has been instrumental in creating awareness amongst masses on socio-economic themes, seeking their participation in developmental activities and for eradication of poverty and social evils.

- * To perform the functions of a multi-media advertising agency for the Central Government.
- * To act as service agency for Central Government ministries/departments to meet their publicity needs including production of media inputs as well as dissemination of messages/information.
- * To help Central Government departments in formulating communication strategies/media plans and help implement them at the grass-root level by providing multi-media support.

The channels of communication used are :

- * Advertisements - Release of press ads
- * Exhibitions - Putting up exhibitions
- * Outdoor Publicity - Display of hoardings, kiosks, bus panels, wall paintings, cinema slides, banners etc.

- * Printed Publicity - Booklets, folders, posters, leaflets, calendars, diaries etc.
- * Audio & Visual Publicity - Spots/Quickies, jingles, sponsored programmes, short films etc.
- * Mailing of publicity material - Distribution of publicity material

The main set-up of DAVP at the headquarters consists of:

- Campaign Wing - for coordinating publicity campaigns
- Advertising Wing - for release of press advertisement
- Outdoor Publicity Wing - for display of outdoor publicity material
- Printed Publicity Wing - for printing of publicity material
- Exhibition Wing - for putting-up exhibitions
- Mass Mailing Wing - for distribution of publicity material
- Audio-Visual Cell - for production of audio/video programmes
- Studio with DTP facility - for designing
- Copy Wing - for making copy
- Coordination Cell - for coordinating PQs, VIP ref., Parl. Committees
- Electronic Data Processing Centre - for processing of bills.
- Accounts Wing
- Administration Wing

DAVP has a network of offices spread all over the country. DAVP has:

Two Regional Offices at Bangalore and Guwahati to coordinate the Directorate's activities in the region.

Two Regional Distribution Centres at Kolkata and Chennai look after distribution of publicity material in eastern and southern regions, respectively.

35 Field Exhibition Units which include seven mobile exhibition vans, seven family welfare units and 21 general field exhibition units.

Regional Exhibition Workshop at Chennai and

Exhibition Kit Production Centre at Guwahati assist the Exhibition Division at headquarters in designing and fabricating exhibits.

Some of the important subjects publicised by DAVP include:

Health & Family Welfare, Drug Abuse & Prohibition, Women & Child Development, Upliftment of Girl Child, Education, Adult Education, Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Mahila Samridhi Yojana, National Integration & Communal Harmony, Creating public opinion against dowry, female infanticide, child labour, beggary etc., Blood Donation, AIDS Awareness, Consumer Protection, Safe Drinking Water, Welfare of the Handicapped, Water-Borne Diseases, Handicrafts, Social Welfare Programmes, Agriculture, Food & Nutrition, National Social Assistance Programmes, TRYSEM, IRDP, DWCRA, Employment Assurance Scheme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Panchayati Raj and Commemoration of 50 Years of India's Independence.

Advertisement Policy of Government of Orissa, 1998

Consequent upon transfer of subject relating to control of news papers etc. to I & P. R. Department, the question of amending the advertisement policy and framing a set of rules for issue of Government advertisements and advertisements of Government Undertakings, etc., was under consideration of Government for some time past. Government have after careful consideration, been pleased to decide as follows :-

1. DEFINITION

- (i) Government : Government means the Government of Orissa, in the Information and Public Relations Department.
- (ii) Policy : Means the advertising policy of the Government of Orissa.
- (iii) Advertisement : Means all Government advertisements and advertisements of all government of Orissa Undertakings, Corporations and Boards, etc., released through Information and Public Relations Department.
- (iv) Daily Newspaper : Means a publication that circulates news and comments on current affairs and is published everyday. Bi.-weeklies and tri-weeklies are included in this category.
- (v) Periodicals : Include weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and annual publications.
- (vi) Classified Advertisement : Is that Advertisement which is published in a compact section of a newspaper, under specified heads, as opposed to the display advertisement. This includes the following, namely:-
 - (a) Situation vacant,
 - (b) Tender and auction notices, and
 - (c) Statutory notices and miscellaneous announcements.
- (vii) Display Advertisement : Is that advertisement which has conspicuous display of contents and is published run over the paper, as opposed to the classified advertisement. This Includes the following :-
 - (a) Mass Campaigns, and (b) Sales Promotion
- (viii) Commercial Advertisement : Means advertisements emanating from State Government Undertakings, Corporations, Boards, etc., Inter-State Joint Projects as well as those relating to Centrally sponsored schemes and those connected with any commercial schemes : the cost of publication of which is borne by the clients concerned.

2. CATEGORY

Small, Medium & Big Newspapers / Periodicals shall be categorised as under (to be revised as per R.N.I. guidelines from time to time).

- (i) Small - Up to a circulation of 25,000 copies per issue.
- (ii) Medium - Circulation ranging between 25,000 to 75,000 copies per issue.
- (iii) Big - Circulation above 75,000 copies per issue.

3. PRINT AREA

Newspapers / periodicals should have the following minimum print area to be acceptable for issue of Government advertisements.

Periodicity	Print area not less than
Dailies	760 Std. Col. Cms.
Weeklies & Fortnightlies	480 Std. Col. Cms.
Monthlies & other periodicals	960 Std. Col. Cms.

Exceptions might be made in the case of newspapers / periodicals published in tribal languages or primarily for tribal readership.

4. ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility of newspapers and periodicals for release of Government advertisements :

- (i) Newspapers and periodicals eligible for Government advertisements must have a minimum paid circulation of not less than 10,000 copies per issue.
- (ii) National daily newspapers and periodicals with all-India circulation in the approved list of Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, Government of India can also be considered for release of advertisements.
- (iii) The newspapers / periodicals should have uninterrupted and regular publication for a period of not less than four (4) months. Quarterly journals have to bring out at least two issues before they are considered.
- (iv) Compliance with the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 and registration of the daily newspapers / periodicals with the Registrar of Newspapers for India, New Delhi (R.N.I) are essential for being eligible to avail Government advertisements.
- (v) All newspapers and periodicals published from Orissa satisfying above criteria must be either in Oriya or English language.
- (vi) All newspapers and periodicals published outside Orissa in Oriya language satisfying other eligibility criteria.
- (vii) National Hindi and English newspapers satisfying the above criteria.
- (viii) House Journals, House Magazines and Souvenirs will not ordinarily qualify for Government advertisements.
- (ix) All eligible news papers may submit application in prescribed proforma as in the Annexure to be in the approved list of I.& P.R. Deptt. to obtain advertisements at rates to be settled as in para 12 below.

- (x) Relaxation will be made in the case of the following :

specialised / Scientific / Technical periodicals of uninterrupted regular publication and of repute with a paid circulation of 1000 copies per issue.

5. RELEASE OF ADVERTISEMENTS (GENERAL)

Policy for release of advertisements :-

- (i) Keeping in view the Government policy, publicity requirements and availability of funds, a balanced and equitable placing of advertisements is aimed at. Government advertisements are not intended to be a measure of financial assistance to newspapers / periodicals. However, appropriate weightage or consideration will be given to :
- (a) Small and Medium newspapers / periodicals.
 - (b) Language newspapers / periodicals.
 - (c) Specialised, Scientific and Technical Periodicals.
 - (d) Any other category which Government may consider appropriate for special and bonafide reasons.
 - (e) To only genuine newspapers which circulate news or comments on current affairs; likewise to only standard journals / periodicals on science, art, literature, sports, films, cultural affairs, etc. Regularity in publication is to be considered as one of the criterion for release of Government advertisements.
- (ii) General policy governing release of advertisements within the funds available will be as follows :
- (a) There must be widest possible coverage so as to reach the masses.
 - (b) Preference in release of advertisement will be given to Oriya dailies.
 - (c) Pulling power, production standard and the language and areas that are intended to be covered,
 - (d) While political affiliation of a newspaper or periodical will not be taken into account advertisement support may be withdrawn when the newspaper periodical acts in disregard to journalistic ethics. Whether or not the newspaper periodical has violated journalistic ethics shall be judged by any of the following parameters, namely :-
 - * Baseless, motivated, malicious, scurrilous or obscene reports or comments:
 - * Reports imputing a person of statements he/she has not made:
 - * Reports or comments designed to affect communal harmony or national integration or preach violence or lawlessness, offend the sovereignty and integrity of India:
 - * Reports or comments repugnant to socially accepted norms of public decency and morals: and
 - * Non-publication or publication in a mutilated or tendentious manner of Government Press Notes, Handouts, Communiques, Press Contradictions, etc.
- (iii) No classified advertisement will be issued to journals / periodicals unless specifically approved by Government.

(iv) Since the objective of advertisements is to provide information to the people, the following criteria shall be taken into account while releasing the advertisements.

- (a) Whether the newspaper periodical reaches the class of people whom the advertisement seeks to inform: and
- (b) Whether the newspaper / periodical has sufficient circulation in the area where the advertisement seeks to make an impact.

In view of the limitation of funds, it will be legitimate to release advertisements to different newspapers periodicals on rotation basis. This method will also provide some support to small newspaper periodicals.

6. RELEASE OF ADVERTISEMENTS OF PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS, CORPORATIONS, BOARDS, ETC.

All commercial, classified and display advertisements by State Government Agencies, Undertakings, Corporations, Boards etc. will be routed through the Information and Public Relations Department to eligible news papers / periodicals in the approved list. The budget provision of the Undertakings will be communicated to the Information and Public Relations Department at the beginning of the year for keeping an effective watch on release of advertisements. Such budget provision must be communicated with the first advertisement of the year if not communicated earlier. I & P.R. Deptt. shall communicate approved rate in respect of each newspaper/periodical to all such advertisers in order to enable them to make payment directly to the news papers under intimation to I. & P.R. Department.

7. RELEASE OF ADVERTISEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS

All government classified and display advertisements shall be released to news papers periodicals in the approved list by I. & P.R. Department only. In no case advertisements shall be released directly by other departments of government, Heads of departments and Subordinate Offices. All provisions for advertisement of all Government departments will be made in demand No.25 of I. & P.R. Department. All Land Acquisition Officers shall deposit the advertisement cost in the receipt head of the I.& P.R. Department.

8. PAYMENT OF BILLS AND PROCEDURE FOR RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED AND DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS :

- (i) Classified advertisement will not be issued to more than four local dailies and that too, for more than one insertion, unless specially considered necessary. If it has a message particularly requiring wider publication outside the State, it may be released to outside dailies, but to not more than two such dailies, for one insertion only, unless otherwise considered necessary.
- (ii) The advertiser shall allow a reasonable time gap (at least seven days) between the date of publication of the advertisement and last date of receipt of tenders/applications, etc. The advertisers should send their classified advertisements (tender, quotation, auction notices, etc.) in a precise form for publication to the Director I. & P.R. Department sufficiently in advance.
- (iii) I & P.R. Department will maintain a chronological computerised record and issue computerised acknowledgement to the advertiser after receipt of the advertisement matter to monitor proper distribution of advertisements. All advertisers shall ensure physical submission of the advertisement materials with the Director Information and Public Relations and obtain computerised receipt there for. The Director I. &

P.R. shall be responsible for timely publication of the advertisements in the news paper failing which sufficient reason shall be communicated to the advertiser well in advance. The concerned branch officer of advertisement shall be personally responsible for any lapse.

(iv) The publishers of approved newspapers and periodicals published in Orissa will regularly send each of their issues to Information and Public Relations department to enable the Government to decide whether the publication is regular and whether the newspaper /periodical is not acting in a manner repugnant to journalistic ethics.

(v) Classified advertisements will be released for publication in the daily newspapers proportionately according to the circulation in order to maintain equitable distribution. Preference will be given to small and medium newspapers and periodicals.

(vi) The advertisers should not issue more than two corrigenda relating to any particular advertisement for publication except in special cases.

(vii) In case of any wrong publication or printing mistake which may misguide or which may not convey the intended message, the publisher shall republish the advertisement, free of cost on request, failing which the bill for such wrong publication will not be accepted for payment. The Newspapers shall publish the advertisement s on the specified date failing which no payment shall be made.

(viii) Not more than four (4) advertisements need be released for publication in one particular issue of any journal/periodical ordinarily.

(ix) After publication of the advertisement in the news papers /periodicals the publisher will have to submit the bill to I.& P.R. Department within 15 days from the date of publication.

9. CIRCULATION OF NEWSPAPERS/PERIODICALS

PROCEDURE FOR SETTLING CIRCULATION

The District Information and Public Relations Officer (DIPRO) duly authorised by Director Information and Public Relations shall verify the circulation figure and intimate his findings to the concerned news paper / periodical within his jurisdiction. While verifying the circulation, the verification will be based on capacity of printing press, purchase figures of newsprint used, sales net work and other relevant factors. The District Magistrate will carefully scrutinise and approve the findings of DIPRO before concluding the findings.

In case the newspaper concerned do not agree to the finding of the DIPRO they may first appeal to the District Level Circulation Monitoring Committee (DLCMC) as constituted below:

District Level Circulation Monitoring Committee :-

1. District Magistrate	...	Chairman
2. Superintendent of Police	...	Member
3. DIPRO	...	Member-Convenor

If the news paper/periodical concerned is not satisfied with the finding of the DLCMC (District Level Circulation Monitoring Committee), they may appeal to the State Level Circulation Monitoring Committee (SLCMC) constituted as under :

State Level Circulation Monitoring Committee :

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----|----------|
| 1. | Secretary, I.&P.R. | ... | Chairman |
| 2. | I.G. of Police (Spl. Branch) | ... | Member |
| 3. | Director, I. & P.R. -Member | ... | Convenor |

Those newspapers which have certificate of circulation as members of Audit Bureau of Circulation may be exempted from process of verification referred to above. Unless there are valid reasons to workout a verification in the above manner.

Annual Verification: Annual verification of the circulation and the cessation or otherwise of the newspaper will be made as per procedure prescribed above.

10. SETTLEMENT OF RATE

- (i) Circulation (as determined in para (2) above), size, price per issue, standard of production of a newspaper / periodical, the rate charged by other newspapers / periodicals of the same locality/region with comparable circulation, will be taken into consideration for settling the advertisement rates.
- (ii) The rate fixed by the Director of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) Government of India, will be given due regard in settling advertisement rates of newspapers and periodicals.
- (iii) The rates of newspapers and periodicals which do not have any approved rate of the D.A.V.P. for display and classified advertisements may be fixed by the Government taking into consideration the criteria in item (i) above.
- (iv) The State Government will enter into appropriate rate contracts with individual newspapers/ periodicals both outside and inside the State before release of advertisement for publication. The rate shall specify uniform flat rate for both display and classified advertisements. Rates shall remain valid from 1st July of any year to 30th June of next year.
- (v) The decision of Government in the matter of fixation of rates will be final.

11. GENERAL

This policy supersedes all previous government orders and instructions in the matter.

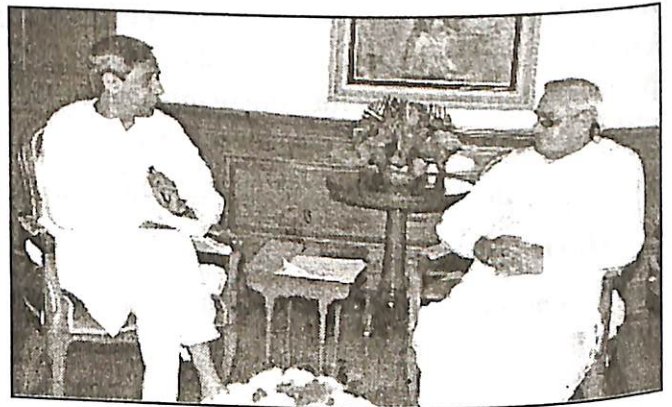
Resolution No. ADV-IIIA-192/98 -33281/IPR Dated Bhubaneswar the 16th December 1998.
This policy resolution has been published in the *Extraordinary Orissa Gazette* No.1708, dated 23-12-1998.

Orissa News

CHIEF MINISTER'S VISIT TO DELHI

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik visited New Delhi on August 28, 2002. He called on Hon'ble President of India, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in Rashtrapati Bhawan. Dr Kalam fondly recalled his association with Orissa and presented a copy of his book, *Ignited Minds* to Shri Patnaik. Later in the day, Shri Patnaik also called on Hon'ble Vice President, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat at Hyderabad House and congratulated him on his assumption of office.

During his stay, Shri Patnaik met Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani and briefed them about the serious drought situation in the State. Government of India has decided to depute a central team to Orissa in September to assess the situation. Pending the visit of the central team, Shri Patnaik urged the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister to release interim assistance to enable the State Government to start drought mitigation work. He requested them for interim assistance of Rs 100 cr. and allotment of 2 lakh metric tonne rice. The Prime Minister assured Shri Patnaik that the request would be immediately considered.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik calls on Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee at New Delhi on August 28, 2002.

In his wide-ranging discussions with the Prime Minister, Shri Patnaik also raised the issue of Central Government's programme for disinvestment in NALCO. He pointed out that the people of Orissa found it difficult to understand why such a highly profitable and efficient company needed to be privatised.

Shri Patnaik expressed his concern regarding the slow progress of the Paradeep Refinery Project of Indian Oil Corporation. The Prime Minister assured Shri Patnaik that the Central Government was fully committed to the execution of the project.

Among other issues, the Chief Minister reiterated his demand for declaration of Orissa as a Special Category State. He also urged the Central Government to include Kandhamal, Gajapati districts and Padampur Subdivision of Bargarh district under the Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. The Chief Minister was accompanied by Shri D.P. Bagchi, Chief Secretary and Shri Shrinibas Rath, Development Commissioner.

Shri Patnaik also met Hon'ble Union Finance Minister, Shri Jaswant Singh and held discussions with him on a number of issues related to the State's finances, especially in the context of the serious drought situation in the State.

Shri Patnaik highlighted the serious debt situation in the State, as a result of which the debt servicing liabilities exceed the State's revenue collections. This has seriously impeded development works in the State. Shri Patnaik felt that the only sustainable solution would be a debt swap programme which would reduce the liabilities considerably, as well as a programme for rescheduling of the debt taken from Government of India. Shri Jaswant Singh agreed that the debt situation required to be addressed urgently and informed the Chief Minister that a Committee of State Finance Ministers was finalising the modalities of a debt swap programme. A final decision in this matter is likely to be taken within the next few weeks.

Shri Patnaik also met Shri K.C. Pant, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission in connection with the funding of the Special Area Programme for the KBK districts. The Planning Commission has finalised a package of assistance for the KBK districts to the extent of Rs.200 cr. per year for the 10th Plan. Shri Patnaik argued that if backwardness is the criterion for funding under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), apart from the KBK districts, there are other districts like Kandhamal, Gajapati, Mayurbhanj, Boudh, Sonepur, Nuapara, Keonjhar, Sundargarh and Bargarh (Padampur Sub-division), which are equally backward and required to be assisted under the RSVY. Shri Pant intimated that the Planning Commission would keep this in mind while finalising the list of districts to be assisted under the RSVY.

• GOVERNMENT KEEN TO FRAME NEW I.T. POLICY

Orissa has the potential to be a leading I.T. destination in the eastern region. Government has decided to follow a proactive policy to realise this goal. Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Shri A.U. Singh Deo said this in a meeting of Secretaries and other senior officers of various departments on August 23, 2002. The I.T. policy of 1998 would be reviewed and a new policy would be framed to facilitate creation of better infrastructure and investor-friendly environment to attract more I.T. companies to the State. Possibilities would be explored to improve air connectivity between Bhubaneswar and the major I.T. cities of the country. Efforts would be made to take the benefits of Information Technology to the common man through telemedicine and services provided from kiosks with effective private-public participation. Local Area Network (LAN) would be established in the Secretariat to provide better services.

The Minister also said that Government of India would be requested to set up a national institute for E-Governance in Orissa and establish Community Information Centre in all the 314 blocks. Government of India would also be requested to establish an Advance Multimedia Centre

at Bhubaneswar for the production of multimedia content for education, entertainment, tourism, etc. The State Government has already approached the centre to set up a regional centre of the Media Lab Asia at Bhubaneswar.

Government would address the needs of students for I.T education through public-private participation, especially in the tribal and remote areas of the State. Educational CDs would be produced and supplied to the schools. Under EFC grants, computers would be provided to 400 schools. Teachers would be trained to teach computer applications. Considering the availability of quality manpower, land, power, and pollution free environment, Government of Orissa is committed to promote I.T. in Orissa.

STRENGTHENING HEALTH SERVICES

In order to make the health services accessible to a wider population, 1077 posts have been created and 461 posts have been upgraded. These newly created posts comprise 125 Assistant Surgeons, 157 Specialists (Class II), 18 Dentists, 1 Librarian, 9 Pharmacists, 9 Sweepers, 30 Data Entry Operators, 35 Staff Nurses, 9 Ladies Health Workers, 6 Matrons, 17 Assistant Matrons, 7 Nursing Sisters, 40 Laboratory Technicians, 18 Technical Storekeepers, 62 Radiographers, 17 Health Supervisors, and 17 Drivers. Assistant Surgeons, Specialists, Dental Surgeons, Librarians, Pharmacists, Sweepers, Data Entry Operators, Staff Nurses and Lady Health Workers would be engaged on contract basis and at a consolidated monthly salary. Matrons, Assistant Matrons, Nursing Sisters, Laboratory Technicians, Technical Storekeepers, Radiographers, Health Supervisors and Drivers will be appointed on regular basis. These posts have been created under the Orissa Health Services Development Project implemented at 156 hospitals/health centres, with Rs.415.60 cr. World Bank assistance. Moreover, 52 Junior Class-I Specialists have been upgraded to Senior Class-I posts, 72 Class-II Specialists to Jr.Class-I Specialists. The posts of 30 ADMOs (Medical), 30 ADMOs (Public Health), 26 ADMOs (Family Welfare), 4 District Immunisation Officers, 3 District Leprosy Officers, 3 Malaria Officers, and 20 SDMOs have been promoted to Senior Class-I ranks. The posts of 18 Anaesthesists, 17 Pathologists, 17 Eye Specialists, 18 Orthopedic Surgeons, 12 Dentists, 4 Psychiatrists, 20 Medicine Specialists, 20 Surgery Specialists, 9 Pediatricians, 19 Obstetrics and Gynaecologists and 67 Assistant Surgeons have been upgraded from Class-II to Junior Class-I. There has been continued efforts to provide health services to the people of the State, particularly to those living in remote and rural areas. Several programmes are implemented with the assistance of World Bank, DFID, WHO, DANIDA, UNFCA, UNICEF and European Commission.

Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Shri Prafulla Kumar Ghadai expressed the hope that this would go a long way in improving the Health Services in the State.

TRANSFER OF LAND OF TRIBAL PEOPLE IN SCHEDULED AREAS PROHIBITED

Hon'ble President of India has accorded his kind assent to the Orissa Scheduled Areas Transfer of Immovable Property (by Scheduled Tribes) Amendment Regulation, 2000. The amendment to the 1956 Regulation had been sent for the President's assent.

The Amendment seeks to completely prevent the transfer of the land by tribals to non-tribals in the Scheduled Areas of the State. A member of the Scheduled Tribe shall not be able to transfer any land to others, even to another member of a Scheduled Tribe, if the total extent of his land remaining after the transfer will be reduced to less than two acres of irrigated land or five acres of unirrigated land. To implement the punitive provisions of the Regulation in a speedy manner, the Executive Magistrates are to be vested with Judicial Magisterial powers to try offences under the Regulation.

The Amendment to the Regulation will go a long way to protect the interest of the Scheduled Tribes in the Scheduled Areas of the State.

AMENDMENT TO THE REGISTRATION RULE

The rules for registration of sale deeds have been amended; the changes have become effective from August 16, 2002. Passport size photographs of both the vendor and the vendee are now essential for the registration of a sale deed. Photographs are to be affixed both on the original document and on its true copy submitted in the office at the time of registration. Specifications regarding size of the paper, ink to be used, margin, etc. have also been made.

STATUE OF SWABHAB KABI UNVEILED



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik unveiled the statue of Swabhab Kabi Gangadhar Meher at Nalco square, Bhubaneswar at 11 A.M. on September 11, 2002. Addressing the gathering, Shri Patnaik said that it was a matter of privilege for him to unveil the statue of the great poet on the occasion of Nuakhai. The poet had a deep love for Oriya language and literature and his works formed a source of inspiration for the people of Orissa. Hon'ble Minister, Panchayati Raj, Inf. & P.R. and Culture, Dr Damodar Rout presided over the meeting. Hon'ble Minister, Revenue and Law, Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan and Hon'ble Minister, Urban Development, P.G. & P.A., Shri Samir Dey also spoke on the occasion. Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Tourism and Culture, Shri R. Balakrishnan welcomed the guests. Vice-Chairman of BDA, Shri L. N. Gupta introduced the sculptor, Shri Bikash Chandra Rana to the audience; he also proposed a vote of thanks. The statue had been installed at the joint efforts of the Culture Department and the BDA.

PREPARATION OF WARD-WISE ELECTORAL ROLLS

The State Election Commission has directed the Collectors to prepare ward-wise electoral rolls in respect of 97 NACs, Municipalities and Municipal Corporations during the period from 9th September to 24th October 2002. Voters are advised to check if their names appear in the list of the ward concerned. Eligible persons may fill up form No.3 in order to include their names in the list. Complaints against the inclusion of the name(s) can be lodged by filling up Form No.4.

Forms, available free of cost, may be submitted to the Election Officers concerned during the period from 20th to 26th September. If printed forms are not available, typed/xeroxed/neatly handwritten copies may be used.

ONLINE PHOTO IDENTITY CARDS

Chief Electoral Officer, Shri L. Kindo inaugurated Online Photography for preparing Photo Identity Cards at Cuttack on September 12, 2002. The online system is being adopted in the twin cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. Under this system, PICs can be issued to voters within a few hours.

MINISTERS VISIT DROUGHT HIT AREAS

Members of the Council of Ministers and legislators visit drought-hit areas to assess the situation and suggest mitigation measures to the officers working in those areas. Hon'ble Ministers, Shri Surendranath Naik, Shri Mangala Kisan and Shri Ananda Acharya and MLAs, Shri Bijaya Ranjan Singh Bariha, Shri Ashok Kumar Panigrahi and Smt Anjali Behera visited Bargarh, Jharsuguda and Sambalpur districts on September 6 & 7, 2002. They discussed the situation with the Collector, Bargarh and other high ranking officers at Padmapur; they also made a review of the situation in Jharsuguda and Sambalpur districts with the Collectors and other officers of those districts at Jharsuguda. They instructed the Collectors to make arrangements for providing water to the farmers through L.I. points, which are operated through Pani Panchayats.



*Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik visiting the spot of boat tragedy :
Debigada Ghat, Jajpur, September 01, 2002.*



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik addressing the audience on the 55th anniversary of the Oriya daily, the *Prajatantra* at Cuttack on August 9, 2002.



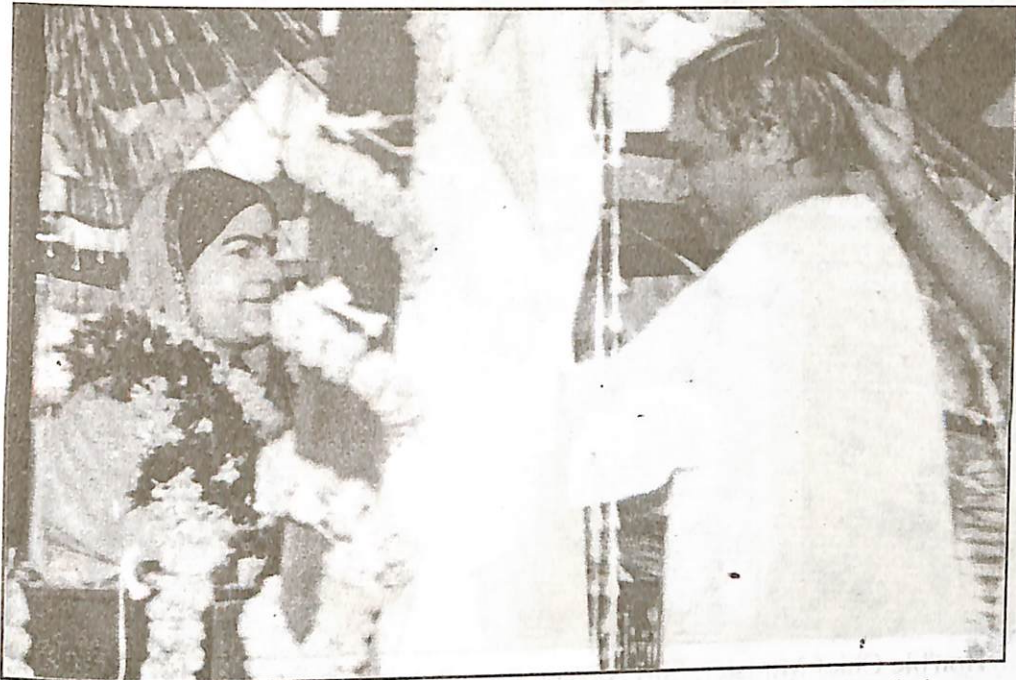
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik inaugurating a seminar on the role and problems of small and medium newspapers organised by the Oriya daily, *The Samaj* in the KIIT premises, Bhubaneswar on August 10, 2002.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik inaugurating the hightech ISDN System in the Secretariat premises on August 12, 2002. Hon'ble Minister, Cooperation, Commerce and Transport, Shri Arabinda Dhali and Chief Secretary, Shri D.P. Bagchi are present.



Hon'ble Minister, Panchayati Raj, Information & Public Relations and Culture, Dr Damodar Rout conducting the preparatory meeting for the participation of Orissa in IITF, 2002 : Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Panchayati Raj, Shri Rabi Narayan Senapati, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Information & Public Relations, Shri J.P. Dash and Director, Shri Sarbeswar Mohanty are present : Loksampark Bhavan, Bhubaneswar, August 12, 2002.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik unveiling the statue of the legendary Odissi dancer, Late Sanjukta Panigrahi at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar on August 24, 2002.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik distributing pension to beneficiaries at Angul on August 24, 2002.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik laying the foundation stone of OMSA Bhavan at Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar on August 25, 2002. Hon'ble Minister, Health and Family Welfare, Shri Prafulla Chandra Ghadai and Dr Prasanna Kumar Patsani, M.P. are present.



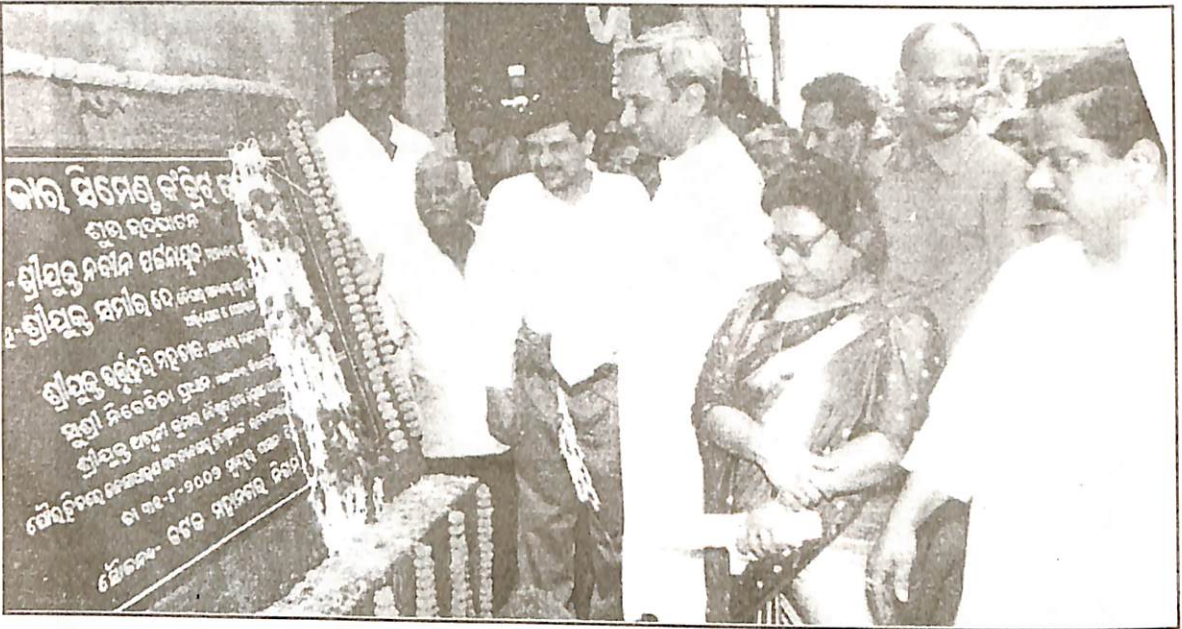
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik inaugurating the programme organised by 'Drustidaan' on the occasion of all India eye donation fortnight. Hon'ble Minister, Health & Family Welfare, Shri Prafulla Chandra Ghadai and Dr Prasanna Kumar Patsani, M.P. are present : August 25, 2002.



His Excellency the Governor, Shri M.M. Rajendran giving away Sanjukta Panigrahi National Award to Guru Shri Gangadhar Pradhan on the occasion of the late dancer's 58th birth anniversary on August 25, 2002 at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar. Eminent vocalist, Shri Raghunath Panigrahi is present.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik inaugurating the Birupa bridge on August 30, 2002. Hon'ble Speaker, Orissa Legislative Assembly, Shri Sarat Kumar Kar is present.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik inaugurating the concrete road at Chhatrabazar, Cuttack on August 31, 2002. Hon'ble Minister, Urban Development, Shri Samir Dey and Ms Nibedita Pradhan, MLA are present.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik inspecting the compost plant at Satichoura, Cuttack, after inaugurating it on August 31, 2002. Hon'ble Minister, Urban Development, Shri Samir Dey and Ms Nibedita Pradhan, MLA are present.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik meeting persons affected by the boat accident at Jajpur. Hon'ble Minister, Health and Family Welfare, Shri Prafulla Chandra Ghadai, Chairman of Jajpur Zilla Parishad, Shri Gautam Ray and Chief Secretary, Shri D.P. Bagchi are present : Jajpur hospital, September 01, 2002.



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Minister, Revenue & Law, Shri Biswapriya Harichandan and Hon'ble Minister of State, Finance and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Panchanan Kanungo at a special meeting of the State-level Bankers' Committee to discuss the drought situation in Orissa. Chief Secretary, Shri D.P. Bagchi, Development Commissioner, Shri Srinibas Rath are present : September 04, 2002.



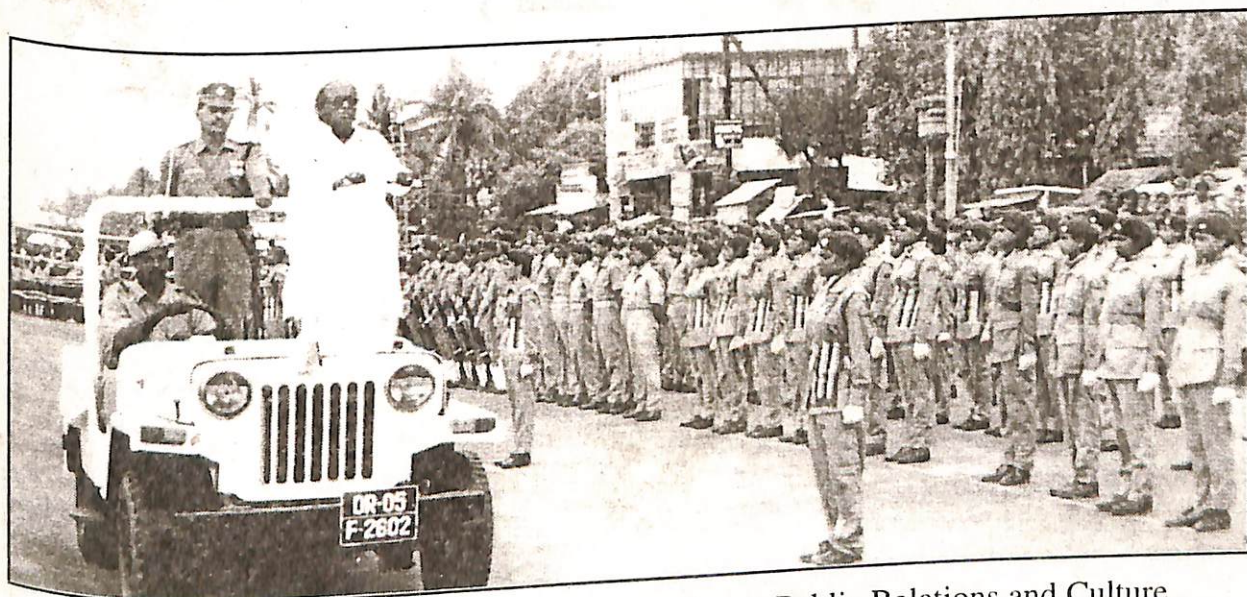
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik holding a discussion on financial assistance to the agriculture sector with a Parliamentary delegation at the Conference Room of the Secretariat on September 10, 2002.



Chief Secretary of Orissa, Shri D.P. Bagchi, Chief Secretaries of Bihar, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Sikkim and senior officers at the 5th Standing Committee meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council at the Secretariat on September 12, 2002.



Hon'ble Minister, Revenue and Law, Shri Biswabhusan Harichandan inspecting the Independence Day parade at Cuttack.



Hon'ble Minister, Panchayati Raj, Information & Public Relations and Culture, Dr. Damodar Rout inspecting the Independence Day parade at Puri.

Independence Day 2002



Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik receiving the salute (above) and (below) giving away shields.